



The Lark Bunting

January 2008

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Birding in Australia with Norm Erthal

Monday January 28, 7.30pm



Norm Erthal will present his birding experiences and photographs from birding in Australia at the DFO meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Expect interesting dialogue, lots of great bird pictures and a view of many of the birding sites around this continent. Norm led a group of bird watchers over a six-week period to a number of birding locations throughout Australia in October and November 2005. Australia (including Tasmania) has over 300 endemics (second most of any area in the world). The group found 465 species, including 241 endemics, all of the Tasmanian endemics, 4 species of Albatross, 7 Bowerbirds, 37 species of Parrots, and 32 Australo-Papuan Warblers. The group was able to observe 45 families not present in North America including Megapodes, Mudnest Builders, Bell-Magpies, and Flowerpeckers. They also saw 58 of 68 Honeyeaters species, the biological replacement of hummingbirds in Australia. The group covered most of the continent (with the exception of the less birding northwestern part of the country).

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Field Trips for January, 2008

Saturday, January 5

Belmar

Leader: Karleen Schofield, 303-936-8661. Meet at 0900 at the parking lot in Lakewood, 800 S. Wadsworth. Turn west on Ohio Avenue from Wadsworth, straight ahead for 2 blocks into Irongate parking area next to the lake. Start your '08 list in town! Two hour easy walk, wheelchair accessible trails.

Sunday, January 6

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Bob Brown, 303-791-6204. Meet at 0900 at swim beach. From C470 take Wadsworth south 1.5 miles to park entrance. ½ day trip. Add lots to your new year list. (Parks Pass required – buy a new one!)

Saturday, January 12

88th and the Platte River

Leader: Buzz Schaumberg, 303-699-1721. Meet at 0900 at parking lot at 88th and the Platte for ½ day trip. Featuring ducks – possibly Long-tailed Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye.

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January Field Trips, continued

Sunday, January 13 *Mesa Trail near Boulder*

Leader: Paula Hansley, 720-890-2628 or 303-263-1714. Call leader for information about this ½ day trip. Meet at 0800 at trailhead 1.7 miles west of intersection of Highway 93 and Marshall Road (Highway 170) toward Eldorado Springs. Varied habitat – foothills species.

Saturday, January 19 *Overland Park along S. Platte River*

Leader: Alison Kondler, 202-904-9140. Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 0900 at parking lot on north side of Florida, just west of where Florida crosses river. Lots of duck species! Birding 'til noon.

Sunday, January 20 *Bear Creek Green Belt*

Leader: Mike Henwood, 303-716-8551. Meet at 0800 at the Stone House (south of Yale – east off Estes) New leader ready to share his knowledge of the area – easy walking! ½ day trip.

Saturday, January 26 *Carson Nature Center & South Platte River Park*

Leader: Dee DeJong, 720-838-3277. Meet at 0800 on Nature Center deck, (north of Mineral Avenue, 1 block west of Santa Fe Drive) Hopefully River will be open – we'll bird 'til 10.

Sunday, January 27 *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt & possibly Mt. Olivet Cemetery*

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728. Meet at 0900 at Prospect Lake parking lot (west of Kipling off 44th Avenue, just east of Robb Street, turn south to first parking area at lake. ½ day trip – restaurant lunch optional. Good water-fowl viewing and winter residents.

Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, Compiled by Cris Cook

Welcome New Members!

Karen Bellina, 1152 Madison St., Denver, CO 80206, 303.249.6157

Frances Campbell, 920 S. Gilpin, Denver, CO 80209, 303.733.7907

Linda Farrell, 8486 S. Nelson St., Littleton, CO 80127

Mary Keithler, 11322 E. Ida Ct., Englewood, CO 80111, 303.771.1421

Pamela Regensberg, 3219 W. Hayward Place, Denver, CO 80211

Danny Roohr, 665 S. Alton Way #1B, Denver, CO 80247, 720.857.8091

Betsy Rumely, 829 Detroit St., Denver, CO 80206

Mary Zick, 959 Madison St., Denver, CO 80206, 303.322.4553

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund

Frances Campbell (RBA, EEF), Minerva Canavan (RBA), Tim Davis (RBA), James Duggan (EEF), Grace Hahn (RBA, EEF), Sonja Hahn (EEF), Mary Keithler (RBA, EEF) Jill Knaak and Mary Burns (RBA, EEF), Rex McGhee (EEF), Larry and Abby Modesitt (EEF), Ted and Nancy Pinkert (RBA, EEF), Jan Waddington (RBA), Lynn and Elizabeth Willcockson (RBA, EEF). Thank you!

Birding in Australia, January 28, continued from Page 1



- At Kakadu National Park, they found Black Bittern, Black-banded Fruit-Dove, Hooded Parrot, and Golden Bowerbird. In Tasmania, they went to Mount Wellington, Bruny Island, and Lunawanna Penguin Reserve. They found Musk Duck, Tasmanian Native Hen, Masked Lapwing, and Orange-bellied Parrot.
- In Western Australia, they birded from Perth to Albany, took in a pelagic trip, enjoyed Two Peoples Bay, Porongurup National Park, Dryandra Forest Reserve, found Black-browed Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, White-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Red-winged Fairywren, and heard the ear-splitting call of Western Whipbird.
- They covered Darwin in North Territory or Top End, enjoyed the sites of Mary River, Katherine River, and the Darwin Sewage Ponds (sewage and birding a true must anywhere), and found species like Rufous Owl, Rainbow Pitta, Little Curlew, and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove.
- In Northern Queensland, the look for birds at Cathedral Fig Tree, Curtain Fig Tree, Daintree River, Mount Mollow, Cairns Esplanade (one of the best shorebird locations in Australia) and enjoyed seeing Great Bowerbird at the bower, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Southern Cassowary (not just a zoo bird), Papuan Frogmouth, and Pacific Baza.
- From Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, they checked out Kunnoth Bore for birds coming in to drink at dusk, Ormiston Gorge, and Simpson's Gap and saw Port Lincoln Parrot, Western Bowerbird, Painted Firetail, and Lovely fairywren.
- From Uluru at sunset, they saw Wedge-tailed eagle, Banded Whiteface, and Gray Honeyeater.
- From the Melbourne area in Victoria, they birded Little Desert National Park, Wyperfeld National Park, and Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and found Maned Duck, Mallefowl (in a nest that was over 100 years old), Australian Owlet-Nightjar, and White-Fronted Chat.
- In Southern Queensland, they birded Brisbane and Lamington National Park and picked up Logrunner, Silver Gull, White-headed Pigeon, and a Regent Bowerbird at the bower. From Sydney and Wollongong in New South Wales, the group went to Royal National Park, Barren Ground National Park, and took in another pelagic trip from Wollongong. They found Wandering Albatross, Eastern Spinebill, Beautiful Firetail, Great-winged Petrel, and Gray Goshawk.

Norm Erthal has served the Colorado Birding community in several capacities by participating in the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, serving as President and Board member of the Denver Field Ornithologists, and by compiling and publishing the Colorado Rare Bird Alert for seven years. Norm has birded extensively throughout the United States including a trip to Attu, Nome, and Gambell. He has led trips to Costa Rica, Oaxaca Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Spain and the Canary Islands, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, and Alaska. Norm has recently retired from the Colorado Division of Wildlife after 30 years of service, but he looks forward to leading several bird watching trips around the world each year.

*The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are now held on the 4th Monday of each month August to April. Upcoming speakers include Martin Lockley on Prehistoric Birds (February 26) and more. Dates remain the same though speakers are subject to change for 2008 dates. All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AM AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 PM.** Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7:15 PM on these dates. Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.*

November Field Trip Summaries

November 3, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Tom Parchman. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Plains and riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Sunny and cold, 41-51°F, northeast wind, 3-5mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 1641 individuals.

November 4, Sunday *Scoter Trip (SCO)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Rhonda Bolling, Allison Hilf, Barbara Hoover, Pauline Ide, Tina Jones, Charlie Lawrence, Christian Nunes, Andrew Spencer. **Time:** 0730-1630. **Distance:** 350 miles by car, .25 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain lakes. **Weather:** Clear, 26-28°F, west wind, 3-15 mph. **Totals:** 53 species, 11964 individuals.

November 10, Saturday *Pueblo (PUE)*

Leader(s): Ira and Tammy Sanders. **Observers:** Leon Bright, Glenn and Jeane Hageman, Bill McGurn, Stan and Becky Oswald, Brandon Percival, Pearle Sandstrom-Smith, Clif Smith, Mark Yaeger. **Time:** 0630-1600. **Distance:** 224 miles by car, 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian (City Park, Arkansas River), reservoir, high desert, interstate. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to partly sunny, 50-75°F, west-northwest wind, 0-8mph. **Totals:** 79 species, 2235 individuals.

November 11, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Urling and Hugh Kingery. **Observers:** Todd Deininger, Jim and Jean Fredlund, Pauline Ide, Candace and Tim Johnson, Doug Kibbe, Carol Larsen, Harriet Stratton, Tricia Sylvestri, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0800-1330. **Distance:** 13 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Douglas fir/ponderosa pine forest, scrub oak, grassland, elevation 6000-6500'. **Weather:** Clear, calm, 45-70°F. **Totals:** 30 species, 212 individuals.

November 17, Saturday *Lakes of Lakewood (LAK)*

Leader(s): Alison Kondler. **Observers:** Dan Brachear, Rebecca Campbell, Mary Eleanor Cockerham, Jean Davis, Mary Keithler, Kathanne Lynch, Pauline Ide, Bob Share, Rick and Connie Steinkamp. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, .75 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes and ponds, elevation 5450'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, 40-50°F, no wind. **Totals:** 39 species, 1788 individuals.

November 18, Sunday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** Nancy Crews, Tom Crews, Tom Halverstadt, Jill Holden and friend Betty, Karen von Saltza, Dennis Wojcicki, Bryan (from Denver Zoo). **Time:** 0800-1100. **Distance:** 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Open meadows, scrub oak forest, elevation 6000'. **Weather:** Cool, cloudy, 40-62°F, south-southwest wind, 10-15mph. **Totals:** 25 species, 192 individuals.

November 23, Friday *Platte River Greenway (PLA)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Barry and Donna Levene, Connie and Rick Steinkamp. **Time:** 0830-1015. **Distance:** 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Cloudy, cold, light snow, 27-29°F, north wind, 2-3mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 328 individuals.

November 24, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Alison Kondler, Nina Routh. **Time:** 0800-1415. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1.5 miles on foot. **Weather:** Clear, 12-40°F, calm to south wind, 10mph. **Totals:** 51 species, 3340 individuals.

November 25, Sunday *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Karleen Schofield. **Observers:** Gail Campbell, Jeff and Diane Carter, Karen Clark, Bill Eden, Leslie Gerard, George Griffin, Vaughn Hackett, Caroline Hancock, Pauline Ide, Chuck Lowrie, Joe Lupfer, Danny Rohr,

November Field Trip Summaries, continued

Betsy Shaw, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Mary Lou Weakland. **Time:** 0845-1300. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, lake, wetland, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Sunny, 32-50°F, calm. **Totals:** 35 species, 836 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

November 6 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Backyard Feeder (PRO)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 44 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Clear, 39-57°F, variable wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 37 species, 658 individuals.

November 12 *South Platte Park/Carson Nature Center (SOU)*

Leader(s): Bill Turner and Arlene Larson. **Observers:** 33. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel ponds, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, bicycle trail, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Partly sunny, 58-70°F, southeast wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 35 species, 845 individuals.

November 20 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 21. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, .75 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 38-46°F, southeast wind, 5-10 mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 264 individuals.

November 27 *Quincy Reservoir (QUI)*

Leader(s): Mary Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 24. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Urban reservoir, cottonwood, willows, elevation 5650'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 38-52°F, southeast wind, 10-25mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 12200 individuals.



A few Pine Siskins at an Elbert County feeder - the fine sunflower chip and Nyjer (thistle) is a big favorite!

Additional Reports for November 2007

species	date	nr seen	location	county	observers
Loon, Red-throated	11/4	1	Cherry Creek S.P.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Loon, Red-throated	11/16	1	Union Reservoir	Weld	Bill Prather, Bob Spencer
Loon, Red-throated	11/25	1 adult, basic	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson, Douglas	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner
Loon, Pacific	11/6	1	Cherry Creek S.P.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Loon, Pacific	11/16	1	Union Reservoir	Weld	Bill Prather, Bob Spencer
Loon, Pacific	11/21	2	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner
Goose, Gtr white-fronted	11/4	1	Addenbrook Park	Jefferson	Warren Finch, Bob Shade, Bob Spencer
Goose, Gtr white-fronted	11/21	2	Bar CCC, Parker	Douglas	Tim Davis
Goose, Snow	11/21	1	Bar CCC, Parker	Douglas	Tim Davis, Amy Davis, Veronica Holt
Goose, Snow	11/27	1 blue morph	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield, Bob Shade, et al
Goose, Ross's	11/25	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson, Douglas	Kellner, Joey
Swan, Tundra	11/24	18, in one flock	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson, Douglas	Joey Kellner, Andrew Spencer
Swan, Tundra	11/26	2 ad, 2 imm.	Baseline Reservoir	Boulder	Bob Spencer
Scaup, Greater	11/14-11/30	1 m	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Scoter, White-winged	11/21	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner
Scoter, Black	11/16	1 firm.	Union Reservoir	Weld	Bill Prather, Bob Spencer
Goldeneye, Barrow's	11/14-11/30	1 m	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Merganser, Red-breasted	11/6	4	Cherry Creek S.P.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Gull, Lesser black-backed	11/24	1 adult	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Andrew Spencer
Gull, Lesser Black-backed	11/01-11/05	1 adult	Cherry Creek S.P.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Dove, White-winged	11/27	1	Rowley Downs Parker at feeder	Parker	Tim Davis
Owl, Long-eared	11/25	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Kellner, Joey
Shrike, Loggerhead	11/5	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Owl, N. saw-whet	11/4, 8u, 10, 12, 14	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Pinyon Jay	11/8	8	Franktown	Douglas	Hgh & Urling Kingery
Mountain Bluebird	11/2	3	Franktown	Douglas	H&U; last of the season
Warbler, yellow-rumped	11/30	24 (1 myrtle)	W. Colfax/Denver West pkwy, Golden	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
Warbler, Pine	11/30	1, 1st yr female	W. Colfax/Denver West pkwy, Golden	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
Warbler, Wilson's	11/30	1 m	West Colfax/Denver West Pkwy, Golden	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
Lincoln Sparrow	11/21	1	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
Swamp Sparrow	11/4	1	Waterton	Jefferson	Doug Kibbe
Swamp Sparrow	11/21	1 adult winter	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
White-throated Sparrow	11/15-11/21	1 imm.?	backyard 2695 Newland St., Wheatridge	Jefferson	Patty Echelmeyer
White-throated Sparrow	11/27	2, white striped	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Foster
Harris's Sparrow	11/06-11/15	1 adult	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Bill Eden, Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Harris's Sparrow	11/12	1 imm.	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield, Bob Shade, et al
Harris's Sparrow	11/17	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling Kingery
Junco, White-winged	11/02-11/30	several	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Lesser Goldfinch	11/1	2, last of the season	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery

November Field Trip Summary Table (continued on page 12)

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	3	4	10	11	17	18	23	24	25	6	12	20	27	
	BNK	SCO	PUE	CAS	LAK	ROK	PLA	CHN	DEL	PRD	NOU	BEA	QU	
Red-throated Loon			1											1
Common Loon		8	9					1						18
Pied-billed Grebe			3		1			1			1	1	1	8
Horned Grebe		3						1						4
Red-necked Grebe			1											1
Eared Grebe		825	200									1		1026
Western Grebe		65	300					150						515
Clark's Grebe			3					2						5
American White Pelican													5	5
Double-crested Cormorant	8		7					5						20
Great Blue Heron	9		10		1			1			4			25
Cackling Goose			2		840			100	3					945
Snow Goose	3		1										15	19
"White morph"	2		1											(3)
"Blue morph"	1													(1)
Ross's Goose								1						1
Canada Goose	1000	50	200		210	34	70	2000	500	206	306	80	12000	16656
Swan sp		5												5
Tundra Swan								18						18
Wood Duck			36		2			2	2					42
Gadwall	5	580	20		37	6	5	24	3	25	11			716
American Wigeon	17	855	41		18		5	85		15	44	50		1130
Mallard	17	250	200		59	12	20	42	10	33	31	4	6	684
Northern Shoveler	40	12	15		40		10		80	18	11			226
Northern Pintail	1	12					35							48
Green-winged Teal	15	225	2				10	15			2		2	271
Canvasback		2	6					4					31	43
Redhead		50						60				1	3	114
Ring-necked Duck		7			1			10	2		75		10	105
Lesser Scaup		170	1		5				10	7	3		2	188
Surf Scoter		9												9
White-winged Scoter		1												1
Bufflehead		2700	30		5		7	15	3	21	4	17	2	2804
Common Goldeneye		47	1			4	5	36	1	2		15	4	115
Barrow's Goldeneye												1		1
Hooded Merganser			3		39					13	2	6	5	68
Common Merganser					4		3	300		1		8	2	318
Ruddy Duck			2		3				1	1				7
Osprey			1											1
Bald Eagle	2	5						4			1			12
Northern Harrier	1	2				1	1	1						6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			1										2
Cooper's Hawk			1	1										2
Red-tailed Hawk		8	30	3	1	5		5	1	1	6	1	1	62
Rough-legged Hawk			3											3
Golden Eagle												1		1
American Kestrel			1		4		2		2		1		2	12

Demeter's Torch: Plumbing and Virtue

During the inaugural meeting of the Colorado Council of The Nature Conservancy, back on 18 June 2004, participants discussed whether the needs for water could be balanced between the natural and the human communities. I took part in that discussion, and I'll start with that question.

Let's begin by recognizing that water use is already way out of balance. The natural world provides all water, for both the natural and human communities, and it controls most uses through a complex system known as the water cycle. Humans provide no water, but our advanced technological abilities enable us to exercise an increasing influence over most uses. As we continue to find new ways to exert that influence, we have yet to acknowledge our stewardship over water for other "customers" in the natural communities. In other words, so far our ability has outrun our responsibility. Perhaps it is time to remember that our abilities only evolved over time, and because of resources provided by the natural world, including water.

In the long view of evolution human interference with Nature would probably not have become threatening, if humans had not invented agriculture around 10,000 years ago. With more food and settled communities those first farmers were able to revolutionize shelter, health, security, and how they thought. Civilization as we know it was on its way, complete with religion, art, philosophy, government, wealth, travel, and—finally!—miniskirts and football.

Every prosperous person on the planet today can identify with those early farmers. They invented a lifestyle that lengthened their lives, increased their opportunities, and essentially made possible the wonderful and dangerous species we have become. Along the way they pioneered an enjoyment of leisure, a fascination with more and more things to amuse and challenge us, and a desire for comfort.

But comfort has consequences. One of them is that yesterday's luxuries become today's necessities without anyone ever stopping to ask, "Do I really need that?" "That" could be our preference, even in the semiarid West, for lawns over natural landscaping, or our growing love affair with golf courses, or the provision in all modern homes of multiple bath-

rooms. I grew up in a household of three children and one adult, who shared one bathroom. My experience is not unique.

Another consequence is that humans now use over half the globally available supply of fresh water; by 2025 hydrologists think we will be using around 70% (*Natural History* magazine, November 2007). I leave it to you to imagine the impact on birds, animals, plants, and the other natural communities.

Human use of water breaks down as follows, worldwide: 8% for homes, villages, and cities, 22% for industry, and a whopping 70% for agriculture. Consider just industry for a moment. Almost everything manufactured requires water at some stage of the process, and most manufacturing depends on electricity, which is mostly generated at hydroelectric plants (i.e., dams). But dams present massive problems: much of the water they capture evaporates; they impede the natural flows on which animals and plants depend; they prevent the migration of many aquatic species; their turbines kill some species; they concentrate pollutants; and eventually they all silt up. Dams are a classic symbol of frantic civilizations, drunk with technological prowess, impatient to "control" Nature, and blind to the implications of their muscular haste.

Don't get me wrong: I'm no Luddite. Given the choices we have made, we can no longer live without the internal combustion engine, electricity, and computers—all of them produced with vast amounts of water. But we could do without most electronic gadgets, and we surely cannot afford to go on relying on SUVs and other fuelish forms of transportation. And I haven't even touched on agriculture! I'll get there in another column.

At some point we must remember the distinction between need and convenience. A wise man once said that "enough is as good as a feast." Nothing wrong with a feast once in a while, when the occasion warrants one. But a perpetual orgy perverts the appetite, just as any insatiable hunger for the ultimate destroys our ability to appreciate the ordinary events of life. Restraint is more than common sense; it is also a virtue. And virtues depend on a system of ethics.

Whoa! What do virtue and ethics have to do with

Demeter's Torch: Plumbing and Virtue, continued

water resources? Actually, quite a lot. Consider that one billion human beings today lack even a gallon a day of clean water for drinking and preparing food. That's one out of every six people on the planet. Over one third of the world's people lack safe sanitation systems, which depend on generous amounts of water. In North America we consume more than 150 gallons per person, per day, and that doesn't count our industrial or agricultural uses. To grow enough cotton for a single T-shirt requires over 700 gallons.

What does it say about our priorities in America that xeriscaping commands so little attention? What does it say about our intelligence that we treat water more as a commodity (selling it in designer brands) than as a precious, limited resource? What does it say of our environmental awareness that we recklessly draw down water supplies but do very little about conservation, repairing leaks, building more efficient appliances, or eliminating wasteful practices?

So it seems we do need virtue and ethics after all. And to reconnect with them, we need Aristotle. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was one of those brilliant polymaths who could synthesize several fields at once, and draw from them a common essence. He looked beyond facts to find patterns. He understood that unity and diversity were parts of a process. He has influenced every division of the modern curriculum, including ethics.

Aristotle taught what I call a deep morality. He reasoned that human behavior conformed to certain principles, principles similar to those governing the natural world, and that these principles influenced each other, were parts of a larger whole. For example, politics and ethics have in common the goal of achieving human happiness. (Pause to let that one sink in!) Once you grasp that astonishing proposition, the goals of philosophy, economics, psychology, art, etc. prove to be much the same. Aristotle excelled at applying reason, and he argued that man was a rational animal, capable of harnessing various stallions to pull the same chariot, so to speak, and directing them toward the same goal. Thanks to the science of ecology, which also finds connections between human and natural behaviors, we are rediscovering the wisdom of Aristotle.

By the way, Aristotle never said that man was

entirely rational. To the contrary, he emphasized that acting rationally was a learned behavior, one that countered or channeled the irrational force of passions. Ethics for Aristotle—his deep morality—was a deliberate choice among a welter of desires, a path for life analogous to the course of a ship through a stormy sea.

The obsession in America with consumerism, and the assertion of numerous "rights" to do whatever we want, raise doubts about this country's ability to balance the needs of mankind and those of Nature. Worse, our wasteful depletion of natural resources, especially water, raises doubts about our basic humanity. To borrow a phrase out of context from Abraham Lincoln, but very relevant to this subject, we are now engaged in a contest to determine "whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

The answer depends on intelligence, which in turn depends on choices, choices based on deep morality. Of course we have the ability. Do we have the will? Will we exercise our intelligence not to do some things we have the capacity for? Will we exercise restraint? Will we accept living within limits?

Many Americans are capable, educated, informed, idealistic, and energetic. Yet all of us are yoked to our electronic devices, our SUVs, our green lawns, and more stuff than we need, or (I would wager) more than we really want.

The larger problem is that we all endorse an economic system that has put the planet in peril today, because mankind's relentless quest for more comfort, more leisure, and more wealth is endangering the natural resources on which those benefits depend. Those benefits are part of what Aristotle included in happiness, but Aristotle also counseled moderation. Is it too late for a people, so habituated to excess, to relearn moderation?

Demeter's Torch: Plumbing and Virtue

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This is the first article in a series that we will be featuring during the year. Thanks to Mike Foster and The Dipper—Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society, Inc.

President Bush Announces National Strategy for Migratory Bird Conservation

October 2007: In a positive step for bird conservation, President Bush has announced a new national strategy to preserve key habitats for the migratory birds that he said "fascinate and bring joy to millions of our citizens."

Speaking at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland, on Saturday, October 20, President Bush said that America is facing a significant environmental challenge: Hundreds of bird species are losing stopover habitats needed on their annual migrations. He proposed several measures to restore and protect habitats in the U.S. and in Mexico.

"I don't know if you know this or not, but each year more than 800 species of migratory birds brave stiff winds, harsh weather, and numerous predators to fly thousands of miles," President Bush said. "Unfortunately, expanding civilization has made it harder for these birds to find places to stop and rest."

"Our birds have been pummeled by urban and agricultural sprawl, rampant pesticide use, and wetland degradation for decades," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Many species today are down to just a third of their population sizes in the 1960s."

President Bush emphasized the need for "cooperative conservation" uniting citizens, private groups, and government officials to protect birds. In formulating his new policies, he drew upon recommendations from a report spearheaded by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with leaders from other conservation organizations, including the American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Society, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners in Flight, PRBO Conservation Science, and The Nature Conservancy.

The President outlined several measures to help protect birds, including

- Restoring 200,000 acres of habitats for migratory birds on National Wildlife Refuges by 2009 and raising \$3 billion in public and private funding to help restore wildlife habitats in national parks
- Allocating \$509 million in 2008 to the USDA Farm Bill conservation programs that assist landowners in preserving habitat for migratory birds
- Working with the Mexican government and nongovernmental organizations to restore and protect five priority habitats in Mexico with \$4 million committed in Fiscal Year 2007
- Adding three new Joint Ventures-regional partnerships that use public and private funding-to help conserve birds along the Rio Grande corridor, in the Appalachian Mountains, and on the northern Great Plains
- Requesting a "State of the Birds" report from the Secretary of the Interior by 2009 to chart progress and identify bird species that need additional protection.

"We are impressed and heartened by these bold initiatives," says Fitzpatrick. "The President and his staff are closely following many direct recommendations of the conservation community."

President Bush concluded his address, "The cooperative conservation policies that we have put in place show our commitment to protecting America's migratory birds, conserving the habitat they depend on, and ensuring that generations of Americans will enjoy the beauty of birds for decades to come."

To read the recommendations from the conservation organizations in the original report, "Restoring North America's Migratory Birds," visit <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/publications/restoringbirds.html>.

News from Audubon

States Get High Marks for Clean Energy

Audubon Calls On Congress to Deliver a Strong Energy Bill This Year

Washington, DC, November 14, 2007 - As House and Senate leaders deliberate over an energy bill in the week before Congress recesses for Thanksgiving, Audubon joined Environment America in applauding state officials for their bold leadership on energy issues. States were lauded for policy initiatives to increase renewable energy, save energy and require more clean and efficient cars in a report released today.

Environment America's report, "America's Clean Energy Stars: State Actions Leading America to a New Energy Future," singled out 21 states for adopting bold policies to promote clean energy that can provide a model for the entire nation. Seven states were awarded gold stars for leading the nation. At the event, Audubon president John Flicker called on Congress to follow the lead of the states by passing a strong energy bill that increases renewable energy, fuel economy and energy conservation.

"Congress can and must succeed in making America more energy independent, cutting pollution and reducing global warming gases," Flicker said in an event at the U.S. Capitol unveiling the report. "Our best chance to do that this year is to pass a renewable electricity standard in the energy bill."

Audubon and other conservation groups are urging Congress to include a Renewable Electricity Standard in the final energy bill that would boost clean energy such as solar and properly-sited wind power.

"We can build a cleaner energy future with less global warming and more economic security, and governors and state legislators from across the country have provided us with a blueprint for action on these issues here in Washington," said Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming who also spoke at the event. "We must pass the energy bill this year to set us on a positive path towards a cleaner, greener, more prosperous future."

In developing the report, Environment America researchers looked at five areas of cutting-edge clean energy policy adopted by the state governments: re-

newable electricity standards, the Clean Cars Program, utility energy efficiency programs, energy efficiency standards for appliances, and building energy codes.

"At a time when Americans are enduring the consequences of a long dormant national energy policy with their heating bills and gas at the pump, it is astonishing that Congress is unable to pass a comprehensive energy package," said Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). "The Energy Stars Report illustrates that states across the country are attempting to fill the void of a national energy policy; Congress must heed these successes and pass a strong energy bill that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy."

The following states were spotlighted for special recognition in the report.

- **California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington** were highlighted as "gold star" clean energy states for adopting strong policies in at least four of these areas.
- **Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Pennsylvania and Vermont** were highlighted as "silver star" clean energy states for adopting strong policies in at least two areas and meaningful policies in one to two others.

Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Wisconsin were highlighted as "rising star" clean energy states in recognition of their strong recent actions to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy.

Renewable electricity enjoys strong public support. A Zogby poll released this week found 77 percent of Republicans, 85 percent of independent voters and 92 percent of Democrats agreed that the Federal government should do what the 'gold star' states have already done.

November 2007 Field Trip Summary Table, continued

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	3 BAR	4 SOD	10 PIE	11 CAS	17 LAK	18 ROK	20 PLA	24 CHA	26 DEL	6 PRO	12 SCU	20 BEA	27 GUM	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1		1					2				4
Mountain Bluebird		8	200											208
Townsend's Solitaire	2		5	8		7		6	1			1		30
American Robin	25		9	1	25	4		1	9	13	3			90
Northern Mockingbird		1												1
Curve-billed Thrasher			2											2
European Starling	120		1	6	70		10	24	8	17	198	1		455
American Pipit			9					5						14
Yellow-rumped Warbler		5	5											10
"Audubon's" race		5												(5)
Townsend's Warbler		1												1
Spotted Towhee				6		10				2				18
American Tree Sparrow	4		1		10			40	12		5			72
Chipping Sparrow											3			3
Fox Sparrow														0
Song Sparrow	8	2	5		7	1	4		12	5	2			46
White-throated Sparrow									1					1
White-crowned Sparrow	38		35						1		8	4		86
"Gambel's" race									1					(1)
Dark-eyed Junco	35	49	38	21	15	29		70		30	3			290
"White-winged" race		(2)												(2)
"Slate-colored" race		(1)		(1)		(8)		(1)		4				(15)
"Oregon" race	35	(1)		(2)		(8)		(8)		3				(55)
"Pink-sided" race		(25)		1		15		(60)		4	1			(106)
"Gray-headed" race		(20)		2				1		2	1			(26)
Red-winged Blackbird	120	75			23		60	45	1	1	16			341
Western Meadowlark	2													2
Cassin's Finch				1										1
House Finch	27	2	30	2	46	15	3	26	26	25	42	2		246
Red Crossbill			1											1
Pine Siskin			30	21										51
Lesser Goldfinch			20											20
American Goldfinch	18		10	16				2	3	10		1		60
House Sparrow	17	1	1		59		5		6	3	1			93
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1641	11964	2235	212	1788	192	328	3340	836	658	845	264	12200	36,503
TOTAL SPECIES	38	53	79	30	39	25	22	51	35	37	35	26	24	113

OBSERVATION LEGEND:

a=adult, f=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only,
 c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare, unusual, + =also/in addition to,
 x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated

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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred whenever possible.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson, meander303@mac.com, compiled by Kim Sawyer, 4617 S. Flanders Way, Centennial CO 80115, kimmer815@aol.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
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One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
--	---------

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
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Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$____
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With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$____
--	--------

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120**



The Lark Bunting

February 2008

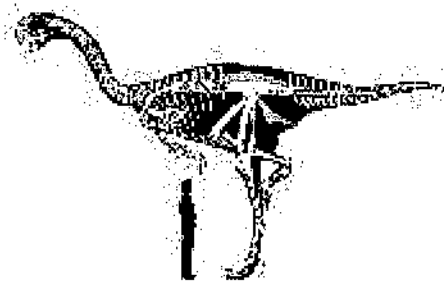
www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 2

Early Birds: A 150 Million Year Journey along the Avian Fossil Footprint Trail (Cretaceous to Present)

DFO Meeting on Monday, February 25, 2008

From the Denver Post, Dr. Martin Lockley, Director of the University of Colorado's Fossil Footprint Collection, reported on a recent study that found a Roadrunner like bird skittered around the feet of dinosaurs 125 million years ago, as indicated by fossilized footprints found recently in China. This was the first of a few fossil records at the time of the dinosaurs. This discovery added to the realization that the early history of birds was extremely diverse.



The modern ornithologist may be surprised to know that more than 50 fossil bird tracks have been formally named in the scientific literature, using standard Linnean classification procedures (known as ichnotaxonomy). A third of these come from the age of dinosaurs, and raise interesting questions about bird-dinosaur relationships. Fossil bird footprints have been known since the 1800s, with the 1860s discovery of moa footprints being a celebrated example. However, until the 1930s no fossil bird footprints were known from the Mesozoic age of Dinosaurs, and until recently, few sites had been studied in detail.

The first Mesozoic discovery, of trackways of a small heron-like bird- named Ignotornis - was made in Golden, Colorado in the same strata as the Dinosaur Ridge dinosaur tracks. Since, then Mesozoic bird tracks have been found at a dozen localities in North America and numerous sites in east Asia (Korea and China). Almost all footprints are those of shorebird- and waterbird-like species, some with webbed feet.

Continued on page 3

February Field Trips



Saturday, February 2 *Cherry Creek Reservoir*

Leader: Steve Kennedy, 303-690-8265. Meet leader at 0800 at the west entrance of park, east from Yosemite St. on Union Ave. past Cherry Creek High School. Bring water and wear warm hiking shoes or boots for a half-day trip. Dress warmly! State Parks Pass required.

Sunday, February 3 *Tomichi Gulch and Kingery's Feeders*

Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Take a crisp, wintertime walk with Hugh and Urling up Tomichi Gulch then eat lunch while watching their feeders in the warmth of their home near Parker. Meet leaders at 8:30 at the Park-n-Ride 300 yards north of the traffic light in Franktown on the east side of CO 83. The Park-n-Ride is next to the Franktown Vet Clinic. Bring lunch and drinking water.

Continued on next page

February Field Trips, continued

Saturday, February 9

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a three and a half-hour walking tour on an easy trail. Participants should see Golden Eagles and species common in the foothills. State Parks Pass required or \$5 entrance fee per car. Lunch will be optional but there is a beautiful place to sit on the patio and watch the birds as you eat lunch. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This is an excellent trip for novice birders and new members.

Sunday, February 10

Longmont

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. View the birds and wildlife in Longmont. Meet leader at 08:30 at Jim Hamm Nature Center – From I-25 take exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld Co. Line Road, then 2 miles north to park on left at E. 17th Ave. Bring lunch and drinking water as trip may go past noon.

Saturday, February 16

Bird Watching for the Novice

Leader: Karleen Schofield, 303-936-8661. Meet leader at 0900 at the Belmar Historic Park, 800 South Wadsworth Blvd at West Ohio Ave. Turn west on Ohio Ave. and go two blocks straight ahead into Irongate parking lot and to the lake. Trip will end before noon so lunch is optional. This trip will be an easy hike on wheelchair accessible trails to study and learn about the various birds that winter in the Denver area. Bring binoculars, field guide and drinking water. If the weather seems questionable, call the leader before going.

Sunday, February 17

Northeast Plains Raptors

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748 This trip will go into the northeastern plains of Colorado looking for wintering raptors. Meet leader at 0700 at Division of Wildlife, 6060 No. Broadway – Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Bring lunch and drinking water. State Parks pass required.

Saturday, February 23

South Platte River Wanderings

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194. Meet leader at 0730 at the South Platte Park's Carson Nature Center, north of Mineral Ave., 1 block west of S. Santa Fe Drive. This trip may go past lunch so bring a lunch and drinking water. Participants will bird South Platte Park, McClellan Reservoir and other places of interest in the surrounding area.

Sunday, February 24

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Leader: Patty Echelmeyer, 303-233-4947. Meet leader at 0900 at Prospect Park lake, south of West 44th Ave. just east of Robb St. This will be an easy walk along mostly wheelchair accessible trails and will finish by noon so lunch is optional. Do bring drinking water.

Scheduled by Jackie King and compiled by Cris Cook

Don't forget to renew your Colorado State Parks Pass—you can do it all on line at:

<http://parks.state.co.us/ParksPasses/>

Early Birds—continued from page one

As skeletal remains of such species are unknown the tracks have surprising evolutionary implications. Likewise, the recent discovery of 120-million-year-old roadrunner-like tracks from China is surprising, as the fossil record of this group goes back only about 100,000 years.

Post Mesozoic (Cenozoic) tracks from the "age of mammals and birds" are also shorebird and waterbird dominated, with rare tracks attributable to turkeys and a few other groups. This shorebird dominance reflects a preservational bias in favor of shoreline habitats, because the most diverse bird groups (e.g., perching birds) are not active in environments suitable for track formation and preservation.

Dr. Lockley earned his Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham in 1977, and he is now the Curator/Director of University of Colorado's Fossil Footprint Collection. Besides attending to the collection, he spends much time in the field and writing numerous publications. Dr. Lockley is a paleontologist with a special interest in fossil footprints, Anima Morphodynamics (relationship of anatomy to the whole organism), and the evolution of consciousness. He has published several books on tracking and evolution, dinosaur tracks in Europe and the Western United States, and related subjects. His father is an ornithologist, and Dr. Lockley has a growing interest in the subject of the early fossilized records of birds which he is anxious to share with the Denver Field Ornithologist.

*The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are now held on the 4th Monday of each month August to April (but excluding December). Upcoming Speakers and Dates! Upcoming speakers include Dale Leatherman on Birds and What They Eat (Monday, March 24) and David Klute on the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Bird Conservation Programs (Wednesday, April 23). Note: The April 23 date has changed due a conflict with the date of the American Museum Association's convention. Also note, our first meeting in August will be August 18 (so as not to conflict with events related to the Democratic National Convention). Besides April and August 2008, dates remain the same though speakers are subject to change for 2008 dates. All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm.** Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7:15pm on these dates.*

Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7pm and 7:30pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



Don't forget the DFO meeting on Monday, January 28th when Norm Erthal will discuss birding in Australia.

Come early at 7:05pm, as Hugh Kingery, will be signing his book "Birding Colorado", recently published by the Falcon Press. The books will be on sale at that time so if you have not bought a copy, you will be able to do so.

December Field Trip Summaries

December 1, Saturday *South Platte River at 74th Ave (PLA)*

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Sue Barnhart, David Binkley, Marilyn Binkley, Jim Duggan, Mike Foster, Douglas Kibbe, Norm Lewis, Chris Owens, Jim Petri, Nina Routh, Bob Shade, Rick Steinberg, Connie Steincamp, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Semi-industrial urban, cottonwood riparian, open water (small reservoir), elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Clear, cold, 32-50°F, no wind. **Totals:** 35 species, 1416 individuals.

December 2, Sunday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Meredith Anderson. **Observers:** David Binkley, Marilyn Binkley, Jim Duggan, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, Betsy Shaw, Paul Slingsby, Tim Smart, Deb Wittwer. **Time:** 0900-1400. **Distance:** 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Grasslands, riparian, lake. **Weather:** Sunny to overcast, 30-40°F, calm, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 54 species, 8833 individuals.

December 8, Saturday *South Plate Park (SOU)*

Leader(s): Nina Routh. **Observers:** Dave Binkley, Marilyn Binkley, Sue Barnhart, Peg Alig, Carol English, Dave Elin, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Mike Serruto. **Time:** 0830-1430. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake shore, some woods, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Snowy, 23-28°F, northwest wind. **Totals:** 43 species, 2143 individuals.

December 9, Sunday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Mary C. Burger. **Observers:** Janet and David Johnston, Mary Keithler, Danny Roohr, Betsy Shaw, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Don Beltz (on his own). **Time:** 0830-1300. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake, prairie, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Overcast changing to clear, fresh snow, 15-23°F, no wind. **Totals:** 38 species, 1825 individuals.

December 29, Saturday *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Report not available at time of printing.

December 30, Sunday *Binkley Cabin and Grand Lake, CO (BIN)*

Leader(s): Marilyn and Dave Binkley. **Observers:** Jean Davis, Betsy Shaw, Paul Slingsby, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Deb Wittwer. **Time:** 0930-1430. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Feeders and lodgepole forest/riparian, elevation 8300'. **Weather:** Snowing, 2-18°F. **Totals:** 10 species, 35 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

December 4 *Audubon Center at Chatfield (AUD)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 41. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood groves, open meadows, ponds, elevation 5510'. **Weather:** Partly sunny, 52-66°F, variable wind, 5-35 mph. **Totals:** 20 species, 78 individuals.

December 11 - *Cancelled due to inclement weather.*



Please Note: the Field Trip Summary Tables are now posted on the DFO Web site www.DFOBirders.org.

A Streak-backed Oriole in Colorado!



Photo by Bill Eden

Colorado Front Range birders received an early holiday gift this year in the form of Streak-backed Oriole that has visited Loveland, Colorado. On December 8, 2007, Al Kogler noticed a yellow-orange bird in the yard. Connie Kogler initially thought they had a late Bullock's Oriole. However, Connie later changed her mind when Rachael Hopper suggested a Streak-backed Oriole.

Connie and Al Kogler have since taken good care of bird and birders alike. They opened up their home and dining room for continuous viewing of the oriole dubbed "Pedro". Over 425 people have since viewed the bird as he makes his first appearance between 7-7:30 AM and every one to two hours thereafter. Birders have flocked to Loveland from Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, California, Kansas and other states. The Kogler's dining room was packed to capacity

as people waited to see the flashes of bright yellow and orange descending the Blue Spruce to the platform feeder below. As people saw the bird, the crowd thinned out and another group took its place. Connie, an experienced birder, has provided Pedro with live mealworms, suet and grape jelly.

The Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*), a species of western Mexico, occasionally makes its way north into southern Arizona and Southern California. Single sightings have been recorded in Oregon, New Mexico, Texas and Wisconsin. Pedro is thought to be the first sighting of this species in Colorado. The Streak-backed Oriole is approximately 8.5" in length. It's head, breast and underparts vary from yellow-orange to a fiery orange-red. It has a black bib and lores. The bill is straight with a dark upper mandible and a lighter blue-grey lower mandible. The black streaking on its back is a strong field mark that differentiates it from the similar appearing Hooded Oriole. It has distinct double white wing bars and a shorter whitish tail. Females are darker and duller in color. There has been some discussion as to whether Pedro is a mature male, an immature male or a mature female. The photos I took show a rich red-orange face, a bold black bib and distinct striping on the back.

Connie and other birders hope that the oriole stays at least through January 1, so it can be counted as a bird viewed in Colorado in 2008. We hope that when ready, this Streak-backed Oriole makes its way back to warm and sunny Mexico.

Bill Eden

Director, DFO Board

Please note: At time of going to press, the Streak-backed Oriole has not been seen since January 2

December Additional Reports

species	date	nr seen	location	county	observers
Snow Goose	12/22	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Foster
Long-tailed Duck	12/18	1	Cherry Creek Reservoir	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Red-shouldered Hawk	12/6	1 imm.	Walden Ponds	Boulder	Bob Spencer
Goshawk	12/4	1	Broadway & Orchard, Ltn	Arapahoe	Harriet Stratton; photo (sent to CFO)
Goshawk	12/6	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kingery
Lesser Black-backed Gull	12/3	1	Cherry Creek Reservoir	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Black Swift	12/6	1	Indiana St.	Jefferson	Bob Spencer
Streak-backed Oriole	12/10	1	Connie Kogler's backyard, Loveland	Larimer	Bob Shade, Bob Spencer, Warren Finch and mob.
Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch	12/15	1	Red Rocks Park	Jefferson	Bob Brown
Harris's Sparrow	12/9	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kingery

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522

Audubon Master Birder Program

Information for the 2008 Audubon Master Birder Program is now online at <http://www.denveraudubon.org/masterbirder.htm>

This program is an incredible opportunity for people who love birds, want to expand their knowledge and birding skills AND want to share their passion for birds with others. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend the Open House on Monday, January 14 at 7pm. You will have a chance to hear from the Master Birder Committee & from past participants. There will also be time for questions and refreshments will be served.

Applications are due on Tuesday, January 29 and the entrance test is this same day at 7pm at the ASGD office. Please RSVP to Susan (ssmith@denveraudubon.org) so that we know how many applicants to prepare for. We are scheduling interviews for:

Monday, February 4 from 6:30pm ? 9pm

Tuesday, February 5 from 9am ? 3pm

Thursday, February 7 from 6:30pm ? 9pm

Please visit the Audubon Master Birder website and review the Program Overview, Certification Requirements, Course Schedule & download the application.

Susan Smith, Education Director
Audubon Center at Chatfield State Park
9308 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80128
303-973-9530
www.denveraudubon.org

News from Audubon

List of Top 20 Common Birds in Decline

The following are the 20 common North American birds with the greatest population declines since 1967.

- #1 Northern Bobwhite: a chubby, robin-sized bird that runs along the ground in groups and is found in grasslands mixed with shrubs or widely spaced trees throughout much of the Eastern United States. Down 82%
- #2 Evening Grosbeak: a rotund, robin-sized bird found in the mountains of the western United States and Canada; the boreal forest of Canada and the northern edge of the United States east to Nova Scotia. Down 78%
- #3 Northern Pintail: a Mallard-sized "puddle duck" with a slim body found in grassy uplands and untilled crop fields near shallow seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands in much of the Northern Hemisphere. Down 77%
- #4 Greater Scaup: a black, gray, and white duck, smaller than a Mallard, found along lakes and large ponds in large open tundra complexes in Alaska and eastern Canada. Down 75%
- #5 Boreal Chickadee: a small, active, grayish bird with a black chin, brown cap, and brownish sides found in spruce and fir forests in most of Alaska and Canada and the U.S. states adjacent to Canada. Down 73%
- #6 Eastern Meadowlark: a robin-sized bird with a light brown back and brilliant yellow breast with a big, black "V", found in grasslands and open savannas in eastern Canada south through the eastern United States. Down 72%
- #7 Common Tern: a slender, medium-sized, black-capped, gray-and-white bird with thin, pointed bill, and a long, deeply forked tail, found near shore in oceans, lakes, and rivers in the Northern Hemisphere, wintering in the Southern Hemisphere. Down 71%
- #8 Loggerhead Shrike: a robin-sized gray bird with black wings, white wing-patches, a black mask, and black tail, found in short grass with isolated trees or shrubs, especially pastureland in most of Mexico and the southern half of the United States. Down 71%
- #9 Field Sparrow: a small brown songbird with a light rusty cap and a bright pink bill found in abandoned fields with scattered shrubs and trees in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and Canada. Down 68%
- #10 Grasshopper Sparrow: a fairly nondescript, small brown bird with a short tail and a flat head often found hiding in larger patches of grassland, usually with few shrubs or trees, in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and adjacent portions of southern Canada. Down 65%
- #11 Snow Bunting: a small, pale-brown-and-white bird usually found in winter by the ocean, lakes, and rivers shores, grassy fields or roadsides in North America, Alaska and northern Canada. Its breeding plumage is brilliant white and black. Down 64%
- #12 Black-throated Sparrow: a very distinctive small, brown bird with a black throat and mask found in open areas with scattered shrubs and trees, including deserts and semi-desert grasslands in the intermountain region in the western United States, northern Mexico, and Baja California. Down 63%
- #13 Lark Sparrow: a brown bird with distinctive markings on the head and tail, found in grassy habitats with scattered trees or shrubs, including sagebrush, park-like settings, and open deciduous savannas in interior southwestern Canada south to northern Mexico and from Illinois west to California. Down 63%
- #14 Common Grackle: a dark bird longer than most blackbirds, slimmer than most crows, and very iridescent with long center-creased tail, found in a variety of open habitats with trees, including urban areas, parks, riparian areas, and a variety of woody wetlands in the United States and Canada. Down 61%

Continued on next page

Audubon News, continued

#15 American Bittern: a two-foot tall brown and tan striped wading bird found in freshwater wetlands with tall, emergent vegetation in most of the Canadian provinces and the northern half of the contiguous United States. Down 59%

#16 Rufous Hummingbird: a very small, almost all cinnamon-colored bird with a red throat, found wherever flowers are near, from dense forests to sunny gardens in southern Alaska to northern California and Mexico. Down 58%

#17 Whip-poor-will: a bird only active at night with mottled brown plumage, found in dry, open woodlands with little underbrush in most of the eastern United States, and parts of southeastern and south-central Canada, southwestern United States, Mexico, and into northern Central America. Down 57%

#18 Horned Lark: a small grayish brown bird with dramatic black, yellow, and white facial and breast pattern, and small, feathered "horns" on its head, found in open, barren habitats in Canada, the United States (including Alaska), and northern Mexico outside of heavily forested areas. Down 56%

#19 Little Blue Heron: a dark blue bird with a light blue bill that has a black tip in adults, found in a wide variety of shallow waters and wetlands, including fresh and saltwater in the southeastern United States, Bahamas, Cuba, and most of the coast of Mexico. Down 54%

#20 Ruffed Grouse: a round-bodied, mottled-brown, crow-sized bird found in aspen forests, but in parts of the United States, found in young, open, mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, also in Alaska, through most of Canada, and the northern United States. Down 54%

For more information and links to each bird, go to: <http://stateofthebirds.audubon.org/cbid/browseSpecies.php>

Welcome New Members!

Susan Carr, 3854 S. Dayton Way # 307, Aurora, CO 80014, 303.957.6658

Jacques Chartier, 1647 S. Quintero Way, Aurora, CO 80017, 303.755.2949

Dina Clark, 2216 Ivanhoe St, Denver, CO, 303.322.6901

Jean Dubois, 3131 E. Alameda Ave #1903, Denver, CO 80209, 303.279.1476

Jeannie Mitchell, 12301 Dawson Road, Elbert, CO 80106, 719.494.1977

Melissa Smith, 1423 S. Victor St., Aurora, CO 80012, 303.671.8092

Please note that new membership last month for Linda Farrell should have been listed as:

Linda and Lee Farrell, 8486 S. Nelson St., Littleton, CO 80127

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund

Kitsi Atkinson and Tom Pool (RBA, EEF), Dan and Renee Brachear (RBA, EEF), Bob and LeaAnn Brown, (RBA), Karel Buckley (RBA, EEF), Diane Carter (RBA, EEF), Ila Clark (RBA), Jeff Dawson (RBA), Robert and Oveta De Boer (RBA), John Drummond (RBA), Teresa Gurth (RBA), Doug and Jan Hodous (RBA, EEF), Chuck and Karen Kaiser (RBA), Kristina Koff (EEF), Judy Lane (EEF), Chuck Lowrie and Gail Campbell (RBA), Martha McCauley (RBA), Peter Mulholland (RBA), Barney and Pat Poole (RBA, EEF), Mary Ann Rose (RBA), Nina Routh (RBA), Karleen and James Schofield (RBA), Arnold Silverman (RBA), Paul Slingsby (EEF), Melissa Smith (RBA, EEF), Laura and Wayne Wathen (RBA, EEF), Larry and Roni Wilson (RBA, EEF)

Thank you!

Demeter's Torch: Let There Be CFLs

What can one person do that would make any difference for the environment? Installing compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) is one answer.

A traditional 100 watt incandescent bulb uses 100 watts of energy, but the equivalent CFL produces the same light using only 26 watts of energy. It takes about 80 pounds of coal to power one incandescent bulb over its lifetime; to power the equivalent CFL requires less than a pound of coal.

CFLs save you money. Despite a higher initial cost CFLs last up to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they use less energy while they work. How long they last depends on how much you use them, the wattage, and the type.

CFLs have caught up with the times: they no longer hum or flicker. They come in a variety of styles, sizes, and shapes. There are even dimmers, flood lamps, and 3-stage bulbs.

So much for a general overview. Here are some things I learned while converting to CFLs. Generally, replace those bulbs first that will be "on" the most. You will even save energy on those you turn on only briefly, but you will use up the bulb faster.

CFLs may not appear to be as bright as traditional bulbs. I found it depends on the circumstances. I used to have two 100 watt incandescent bulbs in the laundry room, which I replaced with two 26 watt CFLs. Though the room seemed less bright, it was plenty bright enough for my purposes. But the situation was reversed in the master bathroom, where the three 13 watt CFLs I substituted for three 60 watt incandescent bulbs were too bright. By unscrewing the middle bulb I found the lighting perfect, and I saved the \$6.99 cost of one bulb.

If the equivalent CFL does not give you enough light, you can safely use the next highest wattage. For example, if a fixture warns you not to exceed 60 watts, remember a CFL 100 watt equivalent only uses 26 watts. CFLs can be slightly longer than traditional bulbs, which could be a problem if bulbs are behind a tight glass or plastic cover. A lower wattage CFL will be shorter.

I have three lamps that take a 3-stage bulb. The 3-stage CFLs worked fine in two lamps, providing as much brightness as the old bulbs, but in the third lamp the CFL was enough thicker at its base that the narrow metal shade supports, which attach near where the

bulb inserts, prevented the CFL from fitting. So I kept the old 3-stage incandescent on one lamp.

Use only dimming bulbs in dimming fixtures. Dimwit me, I put a regular CFL in a dimmer socket, and it promptly burned out, even though I never used the sliding dimmer.

CFLs take a few seconds to come on, and some require up to three minutes to achieve maximum brightness. So I kept the old bulbs over the only stairway in my house. I found a CFL would not work in the overhead garage door opener, so I kept the 75 watt incandescent. In replacing outdoor bulbs, be sure they are protected from the weather.

If your favorite store doesn't have the bulbs you want, try Wal-Mart, or go online at: www.bulbs.com or www.1000bulbs.com. You can save money by ordering in bulk, but be warned that quality is not always the same, especially when ordering online. The Energy Star label is an indication of quality.

What to do with old incandescent bulbs? Habitat for Humanity in Wheat Ridge will accept them as donations; it is located along the Frontage Road paralleling I-70 (north side) between Kipling and Ward (303/421-5300).

There are as yet no rules for recycling just a few CFLs; *Consumer Reports* suggests wrapping them in two plastic bags and placing them in the trash. (A CFL contains less than 1% of the mercury in a traditional thermometer.) If you have a business or a facility that uses lots of CFLs, go to www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling. Or try www.EasyPak.com. Or your trash collector may accept them: Waste Management does, for example, though it is costly for just the odd bulb or two (wmlamptracker.com).

What was my total cost? \$218.93 for 30 CFLs at Ace Hardware. Sounds like a lot, but the Worldwatch Institute estimates savings between \$50 and \$135 per CFL over the four to nine years they last. At that rate I'll save between \$1,500 and \$4,050, and the bulbs will have paid for themselves in the early months of the first Obama administration. Finally, here are a few quotes to motivate you.

- * "If every household [in the US] replaced just one bulb, the energy savings could light more than 3 million households for a year."
- * "Lighting accounts for a third of U.S. electricity use, more than half of which is generated by coal—the primary source of our carbon dioxide emissions."
- * "Despite having less than 5 percent of the world's population, the United States is responsible for almost a quarter of global carbon emissions."

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Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred whenever possible.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson, meander303@mac.com, compiled by Kim Sawyer, 4617 S. Flanders Way, Centennial CO 80115, kimmer815@aol.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
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One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
--	---------

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
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Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$____
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With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://www.denverfieldornithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$____
--	--------

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120**



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

March 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 3

Learning More About Birding by Learning More about What Birds Eat

David Allen Leatherman

DFO Meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008

Dave Leatherman was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, where he started birding in Junior High. A male Blackburnian Warbler seen at eye level off the Lane Avenue Bridge near the Ohio State football stadium hooked him early. Being able to identify the bird from those tiny images on the warbler plate in first edition *Peterson's Field Guide to Birds* was a real thrill. His boyhood heroes were Dr. Edward Thomas (who wrote the nature column every Sunday in the Columbus Dispatch) and Milton Trautmann (who wrote *The Birds of Buckeye Lake* and *The Fishes of Ohio*). His father, who figured out he wasn't really interested in the crystal radio sets he provided, decided to come over and check out Dave's interests in bird watching. Dave was ever grateful for his father's support and really appreciated that he drove Dave and some of the neighbor kids (later titled the "The Sumnorwood Nature Club") around every weekend to birding places. The highlight of



Continued on page 3

March Field Trips

Saturday, March 1

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Burger, 303-771-3431. Meet Leader at the Park's west gate, Union at Dayton. Plan for some walking through riparian areas and to the beaver ponds. Bring lunch, water and snacks for this 3/4 day trip; Parks pass required.

Sunday, March 2

Westminster Wanderings

Leader: Meredith Anderson, 303-280-8576. December's Slacker trip proved popular, so let's do it again! Meet leader at 0830 at the west end of the parking lot at Front Range Community College, 112th Avenue about 1/2 mile west of Federal Blvd. We'll look for raptors, sparrows, bluebirds, shrike and solitaire along Big Dry Creek Open space. This half-day trip will wrap up by noon.

Thursday, March 6

Canon City and Environs

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 303-777-7588. Co-leader: SeEtta Moss of Canon City. Spend a weekday birding? You bet! With this dynamic duo you can't miss. Meet Chuck at 0530 at the RTD Park 'n Ride at Yale Ave. just west of I-25. This trip will surely include some nice surprises as you visit the famed River Walk, Tunnel Drive and other areas of local interest depending on what's been seen. Full day trip; bring lunch, water, snacks, sturdy footwear, a scope if you have one, and a yen for adventure!

Saturday, March 8

Golden Gate State Park

Leader: Mike Serruto, 303-377-9870. Meet Leader at 0830 at the Park Visitors' Center which is about 9 miles up Golden Gate Road from Hwy. 93. For Carpooling information contact Meredith Anderson at 303-280-8576. The

March Field Trips, continued

park holds promise in late winter for crossbills, Cassin's finch, waxwings, nuthatches and more. Half-day trip. Dress for cooler foothills weather; lunch optional.

Sunday, March 9

Garden of the Gods

Fountain Creek and Big Johnson Reservoir

Leader: Mark Peterson, (719) 573-6190. mpeterson33@yahoo.com. Usher in Daylight Saving Time by exploring El Paso County's varied habitats and enjoy the spectacular scenery. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Garden of the Gods' main parking lot (not the one at the Visitors' Center). Bring a lunch and water for this 3/4 day trip, and dress for changing weather conditions. A scope for the reservoir will be helpful.

Saturday, March 15

South Platte Park

Leader: Bill Eden, 303-692-0255. Meet Leader on the back deck of the Carson Nature Center at 0800 for an easy 3-hour walk. The Nature Center is north of Mineral Avenue and west of South Santa Fe Drive, behind Aspen Grove shopping center. there is limited parking on the north side of the Nature Center. Bring adequate footwear, snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, winter riparian species and more.

Sunday, March 16

Longmont Area

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet Leader at 0830 Jim Hamm Nature Center - from I-25 take exit 240 (Hwy 119) and proceed west about 4 miles to County Line Road; north on County Line about 2 miles to 17th Ave. The parking lot for Jim Hamm is on the left. Bring lunch and water for this 3/4 day trip; expect some easy walking as well as some driving between locations. Bring a scope for Jim Hamm and Union Reservoirs. Always a surprise or two on this trip!

Friday - Sunday, March 21-23

Sandhills and Platte River, Nebraska

Leader: Allison Hilf, 303-888-5110 or ahilf@aol.com. You'll carpool from Denver on Friday morning, birding your way to the Sandhill country in Nebraska where you'll stay the night at a private ranch/outfitter before visiting a Prairie chicken lek early Saturday morning. the viewing and photography potential from the viewing blind are awesome - but dress for cold conditions, and prepare to remain in the blind until the birds disperse. The rest of Saturday will be spent birding toward Gibbon, NE arriving in time to witness the fly-in of tens of thousands of Sandhill cranes as they descend to roost on the Platte River for the evening. You will spend the night in a motel in Gibbon or Kearney and arise to watch the cranes' raucous exodus from the river as they fly off to forage in surrounding fields. You'll get to search for midwestern species and rarities such as Whooping cranes before returning later Sunday to Denver. This trip necessitates a limited number of participants; please contact Leader for lodging and carpooling options and to reserve a slot as this will fill quickly.

Saturday, March 22

Sedalia area including Cherokee Ranch

Leader: Lynn Willcockson, 303-757-7000. Easy walking trip of 3 to 4 miles through riparian and coniferous terrain. You must register with leader for this trip which is limited to 8 participants. Bring lunch, water, snacks for some unique front range birding.

Saturday, March 29

Boulder Lakes

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-422-3728. Meet Leader at 0700 at the Ward Road Park 'n Ride off of I-70. Good Boulder County birding including some hiking at Walden Ponds. Bring lunch, water, and a scope if you have one. Please let the Leader know if you plan to attend so he can notify you in case of a cancellation due to weather.
paslingsby@comcast.net

Sunday, March 30

Wheat Ridge Green Belt

Leader: Toni Rautus, 303-422-7322. What treasures will this gem of a location yield?! Meet Leader at 0800 at the Prospect Lake Parking Lot off of 44th Ave. just east of Robb Street. Half-day trip, lunch optional.

Learning More about What Birds Eat, continued from page 1

their year was "Century Day", when they tried to see over 100 species.

Dave majored in biology at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, attending on a basketball scholarship (though his present vertical jump is 2"). At Duke University, he obtained a Master of Forestry degree, specializing in "Forest Protection" (i.e., entomology). His first and only job was as the forest entomologist for the Colorado State Forest Service (1974-2005). His duties during those 31 years required traveling over 1 million miles in all parts of Colorado and centered around issues like the mountain pine beetle, western spruce budworm, gypsy moth, and many others. He performed annual aerial surveys of 5 million acres of Colorado, taught part of a class at CSU, gave approximately 75 talks a year to various audiences, and diagnosed hundreds of tree injury samples submitted every year by the public.

Collecting specimens for the Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity at Colorado State University was always important to Dave. He has discovered about 5 species new to science and dozens of new state records.

Birding, nature study of all kinds, and photography have always been his passions. Several of his bird photos have appeared in print, including covers of CFO Journal and Western Birds. He was the winner of Colorado DOW's Non-game Photo Contest in 1986. He has seen well over 400 bird species in Colorado and been part of three First State Records (Slaty-backed Gull, Tropical Parula, and Brown-crested Flycatcher (the latter pending RC approval). Dave was Editor of the CFO Journal during the mid-90's. He has led many field trips over the years, including several for DFO, and he has taught the unit on birds for the City of Fort Collins' Master Naturalists for the last 11 years or so.

One of his "games within the game" of birding is trying to figure out what birds eat. He has also published several articles on bird food habits.

His talk to DFO will center on the general issue of bird food habits. He will touch on the mechanics of nutrition and pertinent anatomy. He will mostly focus on anecdotes of birds eating interesting things and how knowledge of bird food habits can make you a better birder. Beyond being a better birder, knowing bird eating habits will improve your ability to attract birds to your yard and increase your overall enjoyment of our birding. Another goal of the talk will be to de-emphasize the listing lust and perhaps open the audience's eyes to the joys that come from true watching. Figuring out behaviors related to food acquisition requires careful observation, much like much of Dave's field work, and makes us all better birders.

Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



Don't forget the DFO meeting on Monday, February 25th when Dr. Martin Lockley will share his well-informed research "Early Birds: A 150 Million Year Journey along the Avian Fossil Footprint Trail (Cretaceous to Present)".

Be there at 7:15 PM (or earlier), as doors close at 7:30 PM.

Demeter's Torch, continued

Here's an exercise that I guarantee will enhance your life, especially if you practice it regularly. Go take a walk in your favorite park or open space. As you stretch your muscles, expand your imagination. Observe your surroundings, noticing how little the furniture of the landscape depends on humankind, yet how much we depend on it. Drink in the scenery. Contemplate whatever creatures you encounter, including other humans.

Notice the impact this dance with Nature has on your mind, your body, your spirit. Some psychologists equate this kind of exercise with therapy. Gurus would say it is the gateway to enlightenment. New Age folk call it centering. Some religions find the basis of miracles here. What it boils down to is you reconnecting with your deepest, truest self by noticing and appreciating the natural world around you—all of it, from the pulsing life in the soil beneath your feet way out to the farthest star you can imagine.

©Mike Foster, foster@comcast.net



The Sixth Annual High Plains Snow Goose and Birding Festival Lamar, Colorado,

February 22rd-24th, 2008.

For more information, visit

www.highplainssnowgoose.com

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Arp, 7837 Fairview Rd, Boulder, CO 80303, 303.494.6637; Robert Beck, 1506 E. 8th Ave. # 1, Denver, CO 80218, 216.650.0869, Sarah Bradley, 545 Emerson St., Denver, CO 80218, 303.778.6172, Tom Halverstadt, PO 263 6410 First St., Louviers, CO 80131, 303.791.3586, Tom Kresse, 24144 Sumac Dr., Golden, CO 80401, 303.526.4633 Nancy Osborn, 2835 S. Monaco Pkwy #2-206, Denver, CO 80222, 303.584.9130

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Mary Jane Black (RBA, EEF), Robert Bucknam (RBA), Carol Cook (RBA), Theresa Damian (RBA), Gregg Goodrich (RBA, EEF), Diane Hutton (RBA), Tina Jones (EEF), Dianne and Sigurd Nelson (RBA), Jerry and Arlene Raskin (RBA), Joyce Takamine (RBA), Phillip and Joan Tomer (RBA),

- A contribution to the RBA has been made in memory of Allison Hilf 's Grandmother by Joyce Takamine.
- A contribution to the EEF has been made in memory of Richard Mendez by Chris Owens.

Thank you!

DATE CHANGES FOR APRIL AND AUGUST DFO MEETINGS

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are usually held on the 4th Monday of each month August to April (but excluding December). **PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR APRIL MEETING WILL NOT BE ON THE 4TH MONDAY, BUT WILL INSTEAD BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23.** The upcoming WEDNESDAY, April 23 meeting will feature David Klute on the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Bird Conservation Programs (Wednesday, April 23). Note: The April 23 date has changed due a conflict with the date of the American Museum Association's convention. Also note, **our first meeting in August will be August 18** (so as not to conflict with events related to the Democratic National Convention). Besides April and August 2008, dates remain the same though speakers are subject to change for 2008 dates. **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AM AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 PM.** Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7:15 PM on these dates.

54th Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, December 15, 2007, 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.
Compiler: Dick Schottler **Feeder Coordinators:** Patty Echelmeyer and Tina Jones
Weather: Clear **Temperature:** -10 to 35 deg. F **Wind:** variable, 0 to 20 mph
Snow Cover: 0 to 12" **Still Water:** Mostly frozen **Moving Water:** Partly open
Observers: 100 (72 in 27 parties, 28 watchers at 27 feeders)
Total Party Hours: 189.75 (126.5 on foot, 63.25 by car)
Total Party Miles: 640.25 (75.55 on foot, 564.7 by car)
Owling: 1.5 hours by one party between 5:30 am and 7:00 am **Owling miles:** 11
Hours Spent Watching Feeders: 85
Count Totals: 110 species; 31,942 individuals

Participants by Area (Area Leader's names in bold):

- Area 1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): **Bob Brown**, LeaAnn Brown, Kathryn Smith, Steve Smith
- Area 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Rick Creswell, Mary Geder, **Mike Henwood**, Rob Riker, Karen Von Salza
- Area 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): Peggy Gonder, **Kathy Hawkins**, Kris Koff
- Area 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Ira Sanders, **Karl Stecher**
- Area 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Mary Berger, Ruth Breckon, Tim Brown, **Ed Holub**, Thomas Holub, John Shoe
- Area 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): David Johnston, Janet Johnston, Tom Parchman, **Robert Shade**
- Area 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): Betty Oliver, **Harold Oliver**
- Area 6. Plum Creek (PCK): **Norm Erthal**
- Area 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): **Randy Lentz**
- Area 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): Peter Gillette, **Hugh Kingery**, Urling Kingery, Deb Ostergard, Mike Serruto
- Area 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): **Joey Kellner**, Charlie Lawrence
- Area 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**
- Area 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Judy Lane, Glen Meyers, **Lynn Willcockson**
- Area 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Meredith Anderson, **Marilyn Binkley**, Jim Duggan, Toni Rautus,
Nina Routh,
Paul Slingsby
- Area 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Else Van Erp
- Area 13. Doublehead Mountain (DHM): Amy Davis, **Tim Davis**
- Area 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Larry Modesitt, **Dick Schottler**
- Area 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Bill Eden, Mike Foster, Mike Gilbert, Warren Roske, **Sherman Wing**
- Area 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): **Gene Rutherford**
- Area 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): **Tom Bush**, Mark Chavez, Lee Farrell, Linda Farrell, Caroline Hancock
- Area 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): (Area not counted)
- Area 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): **Jackie King**, Dave O'Reilly
- Area 20. Willow Creek (WCK): Nancy Crews, MacKenzie Goldthwait, Doug Hodous, Paul Thayer,
Phoebe Thayer, **Dennis Wojcicki**
- Area 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Dick Schottler

Feeder Watchers: Jane Axtell, Nancy Babbs, Doni Berry, John Bonnell, Margo Breen, Nan Brehmer, Debby Carstensen, Carol Chapman, Betty Chrisman, Dee DeJong, Carol Duecker, Marcia Ferguson, Marjory Friedman, Bill & Jewell Henrichs, Tina Jones, Bill Karsell, Marissa Kellner, Mike Kinsey, Linda Ludvigsen, Dick Masteller, Jake Mola, Lowrey Mumford, Millie Sanger, Jacque Schneider, Janet Shin, Candy Vallado, Donald Wargo.

January Additional Reports

species	date	nr seen	location	county	observers
Scaup, greater	1/1	2 (1m, 1f)	Canon City, Valco Ponds	Fremont	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Scooter, surf	1/1	1	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Duck, Long-tailed	1/1	1, imm male	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Goldeneye, Barrow's	1/6	2 (1m, 1f)	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Loon, red-throated	1/6	1	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Loon, yellow-billed	1/1-1/6	1, imm	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Grebe, red-necked	1/6	1	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Gull, mew	1/1	2 (1ad, 1-1st year)	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Gull, great black-backed	1/1-1/6	2 adults	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Dove, white-winged	1/6	12	Pueblo	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
N. Saw-whet Owl	1/3, 11, 13, 15, 27	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kinery
Sapsucker, yellow-bellied	1/1	1	Canon City, Centennial Park	Fremont	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Phoebe, black	1/6	1 calling	Pueblo Reservoir, Rock Can.	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
W. Scrub-Jay	Oct-Jan	1	S. Danversyard	Denver	Mary & Dave Driscoll
Wren, Carolina	1/1	1 calling	Canon City, River Walk	Fremont	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1/12-1/16	1	Centennial yard	Arapahoe	Betsy Rush
Thrasher, sage	1/6	1 overwintering	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Bohemian Waxwing	1/17	200	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kinery
Warbler, pine	1/6	1, (1st year female - VERY drab, muted yellow color)	Denver West Office Complex	Jefferson	Joey Kellner, Glenn Walbek
Sparrow, Lincoln's	1/1-1/31	1, over-wintering at feeder	Private Residence in Littleton	Jefferson	Kellner, Joey
Sparrow, white-throated	1/11-1/6	2	Canon City, River Walk	Fremont	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Stephanie Hansen, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Brandon Percival, Joe Roller, Glenn Walbek, Chris Wood
Harris's Sparrow	22, 24, 30	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kinery
Finch, purple	1/4	3 (2f, 1 m)	Muir Springs, Log Lane Village	Morgan	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Larry Madesitt, Glenn Walbek
Cassin's Finch	1/6-1/8, 10, 11, 15, 24, 30	1-3	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kinery
Goldfinch, green-backed form	1/4	1, VERY rare in winter on the far eastern plains. With flock of American Goldfinches on sunflowers	Sterling	Logan	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Larry Madesitt, Glenn Walbek

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522

The Field Trips Summary Tables are posted on the web site: www.dfobirders.org

January Field Trip Summaries

January 5, Saturday

Belmar Park (BEL)

Leader(s): Karleen Schofield. **Observers:** Sarah Bradley, Lisa Carlson, Rick Creswell, Jean Davis, Patty Echelmeyer, Bill Eden, Jim Fischer, Jean Frazier, Leslie Gerard, Peggy Gonder, Chuck Lowrie, Marcia Milliken, Tom Parchman, Dick Prickett, Warren Roske, Betsy Shaw. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake, grassland, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Sunny, 38-50°F, south wind, 5-15mph. **Totals:** 21 species, 264 individuals.

January 6, Sunday

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** LeaAnn Brown. **Time:** 0730-1100. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian and streamside, elevation 5450'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 30-40°F, southwest wind, 0-10 mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 416 individuals.

January 12, Saturday

88th and Platte River (PLA)

Leader(s): Buzz Schaumburg. **Observers:** Lisa Carlin, Mary Lou Dimond, Patty Echelmeyer, Lisa Elliott, Allen Hagood, Ed Holub, Devek Hankins, Marcia Milliken, Polleke Siraa. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riverside. **Weather:** Clear skies, 35-45°F, calm. **Totals:** 26 species, 632 individuals.

January 13, Sunday

Towhee and Mesa Trails, Boulder County (TOW)

Leader(s): Paula Hansley. **Observers:** Margie Smith. **Time:** 0800-1100. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa, riparian (chokecherry, plum), short-grass prairie. **Weather:** Clear, 25-35°F, southwest wind, 0-15 mph. **Totals:** 15 species, 53 individuals.

January 19, Saturday

Overland Lake Park and South Platte River (OVE)

Leader(s): Alison Kondler. **Observers:** Mary Burger. **Time:** 0900-1100. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, .25 mile on foot. **Habitat:** River, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Clear, 15-30°F, east wind, 1.6 mph. **Totals:** 23 species, 1441 individuals.

January 20, Sunday

Bear Creek Greenbelt, Kipling-Wadsworth (BEA)

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Patty Echelmeyer, Donna Emmons, Mike Foster, Jackie Lawrence, Jane Stewart. **Time:** 0800-1230. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, marsh, short grass prairie, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Clear, mostly sunny, 18-42°F, east wind, 1-3 mph. **Totals:** 30 species, 440 individuals.

January 26, Saturday

Carson Nature Center and South Platte River Park (CAR)

Leader(s): Dee DeJong. **Time:** 0800. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 30-42°F, slight breeze. **Totals:** 35 species, 468 individuals.

January 27, Sunday

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, elevation 5270'. **Weather:** Sunny, 50-60°F, calm. **Totals:** 42 species, 744 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

January 1

Denver

Participated in Denver Urban CBC.

January 7

South Platte Park/Carson Nature Center

Cancelled due to inclement weather.

January 15

South Platte Park/Carson Nature Center (SOU)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 41 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel ponds, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, bicycle trail, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Cloudy, 31-40°F, northeast wind, 0-3 mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 261 individuals.

January 22

Red Rocks Park and Morrison (RED)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 21. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 4 miles by car, .75 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills, shrubland, riparian, city park, elevation 5800-6360'. **Weather:** Clear and sunny, light dusting of snow, 12-20°F, southeast wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 20 species, 113 individuals.

January 29

88th and Platte River (PLA)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 22. **Time:** 0900-1100. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, agricultural, bicycle trail, elevation 5200'. **Weather:** Clear and sunny, 20-28°F, northwest-west wind, 0-45 mph. **Totals:** 25 species, 870 individuals.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email).

Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year.

Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred whenever possible.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson, meander303@mac.com, compiled by Kim Sawyer, 4617 S. Flanders Way, Centennial CO 80115, kimmer815@aol.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
--	---------

One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
--	---------

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
--	-----

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$____
--	--------

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://www.dfobirders.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$____
--	--------

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120**



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

April 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 4

Current Issues in Bird Conservation in Colorado: Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Greater Sage-Grouse and More

Dr. David Klute, Bird Conservation Coordinator,
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Wednesday, April 23



David Klute, Ph.D. Penn State, is the Bird Conservation Coordinator for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Dave is involved in a number of national intergovernmental organizations responsible for bird conservation. He is one of the Colorado members of the Pacific Flyway Council, also sits on the Central Flyway Council, and participates in the Partners in Flight Program. These organizations study and then promote conservation practices to improve the survival of a number of key migratory species. Dave has been working on bird conservation issues related to migratory species for eighteen years.

Continued on page 3



April Field Trips

Saturday, April 5

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Bob Brown, 303-791-6204. Meet at 0800 at the marina. Go east from Yosemite Street on Union Ave. Entrance gate is across from Cherry Creek High School. Bob will scout the area for lingering winter species and early arriving migrants. ½ day trip – lunch optional, with lots of picnic tables available. Parks Pass required.

Sunday, April 6

Belmar Historic Park

Leader: Patty Echelmeyer 303-233-4947. Meet at 0800 at the parking lot in Lakewood, 800 S. Wadsworth. From Wadsworth, turn west on Ohio Avenue. Go straight ahead for 2 blocks into Irongate parking area next to the lake. ½ day trip. A special place for urban birding. A laid-back trip – beginners welcome.

Saturday, April 12

Aurora's Ponderosa Pine

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell, 303-739-2428. Must register for meeting time and place. ½ day trip. Area offers mountain birding in a prairie setting. You'll enjoy this leader's enthusiastic guiding.

Sunday, April 13

Denver Museum of Nature and Science – the Bird Collection

Jeff Stephenson, Zoology Collection Manager, will lead 15 lucky DFO members on a new kind of field trip (no weather worries!) This renowned research area is not open to the public. It has the largest gathering of study skins in the American west – from around the world and right around home. Museum entrance fee is included in this

Continued on next page

April Field Trips, continued

morning tour (10 am to noon) Please call Patty Echelmeyer (303-233-4947) by April 7th to put your name in the hat (or in the nest?) to see who will be the "fortunate fifteen."

Saturday, April 19 *Roxborough State Park*

Leader: Alison Kondler, 303-904-9140. Meet leader at 0900 at the Visitor's Center. This is an easy, slow paced hike that will last 2 to 3 hours. Bring binoculars, water and snacks. Lunch optional. Should see Golden Eagles, Canyon Wrens and hopefully, early migrants like Green-Tailed Towhees. Limited space. Please call the Roxborough Visitor's Center at 303-973-3959 to sign up.

Take Wadsworth Blvd south past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd. on left. Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd. turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles) Parks Pass Required.

Sunday, April 20 *Barr Lake State Park*

Leader: Gregg Goodrich 303-655-9135. Meet leader at 0800 at Nature Center parking lot. From Denver, take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Road, then turn south about 2 miles to Park Entrance. ½ day trip, lunch optional. Expect migrants – spring is here! Parks Pass required.

Friday-Sunday April 25-27 *Craig, CO Grouse*

Leader: Peggy Gonder 303-321-3465. Caravan on Friday, April 25 via Gore Pass and Stagecoach Reservoir where we will meet Forrest Luke of Craig to look for mountain species en route to Craig. On Saturday, we will visit the Sharp-tail Grouse lek, then travel to Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge to see the waterfowl. Overnight in Craig Friday and Saturday night. Travel to look for Greater Sage grouse displaying Sunday with additional birding before returning to Denver Sunday evening. Peggy Gonder is holding a block of rooms at the Best Western Deer Park Inn and Holiday Inn as motel space is tight this time of year.

Call or email Peggy for details: Peggy.Gonder@GonderPR.com or 303-321-3465. Deadline to RSVP to Peggy is April 17. Day trips will depart from the Best Western Deer Park Inn in Craig: 970-824-9282. Other options: Holiday Inn (across Hwy 13); 970- 824-4000; Super 8 in Craig, 970-824-3471. Camping also possible in KOA campground.

Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook

For many years, Castlewood Canyon south of Franktown has hosted a Welcome Back Turkey Vultures get-together in April.

We were unable to get information at the time of printing the Lark Bunting, but for those interested, check their web site, <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/CastlewoodCanyon/> or call them at 303.688.5242.

Bird Conservation, continued

Dave has outlined a number of current bird conservation issues which he will discuss with the DFO

- * What conservation work will be needed to support Bald Eagles after delisting from the Endangered Species Act? Dave will discuss monitoring, protections under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and monitoring and status assessment in Colorado.
- * What other conservation steps are needed to protect raptors in Colorado and in the region? Dave will discuss raptor management plans and guidelines in Colorado and in the region.
- * What are the impacts and issues related to energy development in Colorado? Dave will discuss the impacts of both oil and gas development and wind energy development in Colorado. Concerns about sagebrush ecosystems and issues related to Colorado House Bill 1298 will be clarified.
- * What needs to be done to effectively monitor priority land bird species? Dave will discuss the value of implementing a new design for long-term monitoring, targeting difficult-to-detect species for the Breeding Bird Atlas, monitoring Bald Eagle nests and winter roosts, and Peregrine Falcon monitoring.

Dave will then wrap up by discussing some of the strategy behind bird conservation in Colorado. He will cover what species are in greatest need for conservation in Colorado and briefly cover the habitat and conservation issues for these species.

All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 PM AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 PM. Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7:15 PM on these dates.

Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



Reminder !

DFO Meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008, 7.30pm (sharp)

**Learning More About Birding by Learning More about
What Birds Eat**

with presenter David Allen Leatherman



Help Stop the Killing of Protected Raptors

Last spring, citizens across the country were appalled to learn that thousands of protected raptors such as Cooper's Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Red-tailed Hawks had been killed in Oregon, California and Texas.

The raptors were killed by hobbyists who breed pigeons to carry a genetic trait that causes them to stop flying and tumble in the air before righting themselves and carrying on. These "roller pigeons" are flown in competitions and scored by judges who rate the birds on the quality of the "roll" and other factors. Of course, the pigeon rolling through the air looks like crippled and vulnerable prey to a hawk, falcon, or other bird of prey. Many of these pigeon enthusiasts have been routinely killing raptors in an attempt to protect their roller pigeons.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that as many as **2,000 to 3,000 raptors were being killed on the West Coast each year using methods including poisoning, beating birds to death with clubs, and suffocation in plastic bags.** Even more troubling is the fact that the thirteen men charged with these crimes received little more than a slap on the wrist after pleading guilty. Currently, killing a protected bird is a Class B Misdemeanor under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which puts suffocating a Peregrine Falcon in the same category as unauthorized use of the image of Smokey Bear.

Representative Peter DeFazio of Oregon has introduced legislation that would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 so that the intentional killing of protected bird species would be considered a felony, rather than the current Class B Misdemeanor. HR 4093 would send a strong message to prosecutors and courts that Congress takes these crimes seriously. It would pave the way for significant fines (up to \$50,000) and jail sentences (up to 1 year) for the most serious bird-related crimes.

We need your help to ensure passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalty and Enforcement Act of 2007. Representative DeFazio is currently circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter seeking additional co-sponsors for this legislation. Your Representative is a member of the Natural Resources Committee, so it is especially important that you contact him or her about becoming a co-sponsor.

Please send a letter to your Representative today! Tell your House member that you support stronger penalties for the intentional killing of protected raptors.

<http://audubonaction.org/campaign/hr4093/8ig6enk2vw3wwb7?>

Demeter's Torch: Who is Demeter?

"Brothers and sisters, we are gathered together for a grand purpose. . . We are here to begin saving the natural world. . . our natural home, which we have neglected and taken for granted, overexploited and polluted. . ."

"Sounds like a great sermon, doesn't it? I'd like to hear it myself."

"Hold on! We're talking about The Denver Field Ornithologists, right? Talk about preaching to the choir! We don't need you, brother."

"Really? Well, I'm happy to be proven wrong, and I will rejoice with every brother and sister who enlists in the cause of Demeter, but I am skeptical."

"Demeter . . . who?"

"Ah ha! Perhaps you do need me."

So, who is Demeter? Notice I did not say who *was* Demeter? She lives and breathes. Her spirit is everywhere, and like all goddesses she is immortal. By now such a sophisticated audience as DFO will have guessed, if they did not already know, that it was the ancient Greeks who first identified Demeter as the deity with a particular responsibility for the fruits of the earth.

You might say, to put it in modern lingo, that her niche is protecting the ecosystem itself, for healthy crops depend upon sunlight, water, air, nutritious soil, as well as all those critters, great and small, that fertilize and aerate and otherwise process the minerals and sand and clay and decaying bodies and dead plants and active chemicals into the rich loamy stuff that nurtures life itself.

Okay, what about Demeter's torch? Being associated with soil, she was also keen on what was beneath the soil, like seeds, and as you travel down under the soil you eventually arrive at the underworld, whose lord was Hades. In the fabulous logic of mythology Hades becomes the husband of Kore, Demeter's daughter, and Kore symbolizes seeds.

Someone who wanders around in the underworld is going to need a torch, to see where she is going. Indeed, the torch is one of Demeter's symbols, along with ears of corn.

Taking my clue from Demeter, I will try to bring light into dark places. You don't need much of a torch to see that some board rooms of multinational corporations are among the darkest spots in the universe, environmentally speaking, but we like to ignore a more cryptic black hole, which resides in the

human soul. Gentle reader, I mean no offense. What I know of the darkness of your soul I have learned by looking within my own. If there is an original sin of humanity, it is not tasting the apple of wisdom; it is ignoring the knowledge of Demeter. It will be a part of my purpose to remind you of that knowledge.

But a torch radiates heat as well as light. It will be impossible to talk about the environment without raising someone's hackles. Demeter's realm, and all that pertains to it, is already tainted by politics. It is controversial. If it were otherwise, Americans would not still be debating the validity of global warming, the threat of explosive population growth, the need for energy and resource conservation, or sensible land use policies. My purpose is advocacy, and even though this column, like any other, is based on opinion, I will try to remember to rely on evidence and to consider the wider context of an issue, without pretending to create balance where the scales are obviously tipped.

We are talking about emotional issues, which is to say human issues. People are rational animals, yet they are not always rational. They are a complex and wonderful mix of reason and wrath, genius and stupidity, insight and blindness, virtue and malice, and much else that I intend to mention, therefore to penetrate your heart and mind I will use whatever arrows I can find in my quiver.

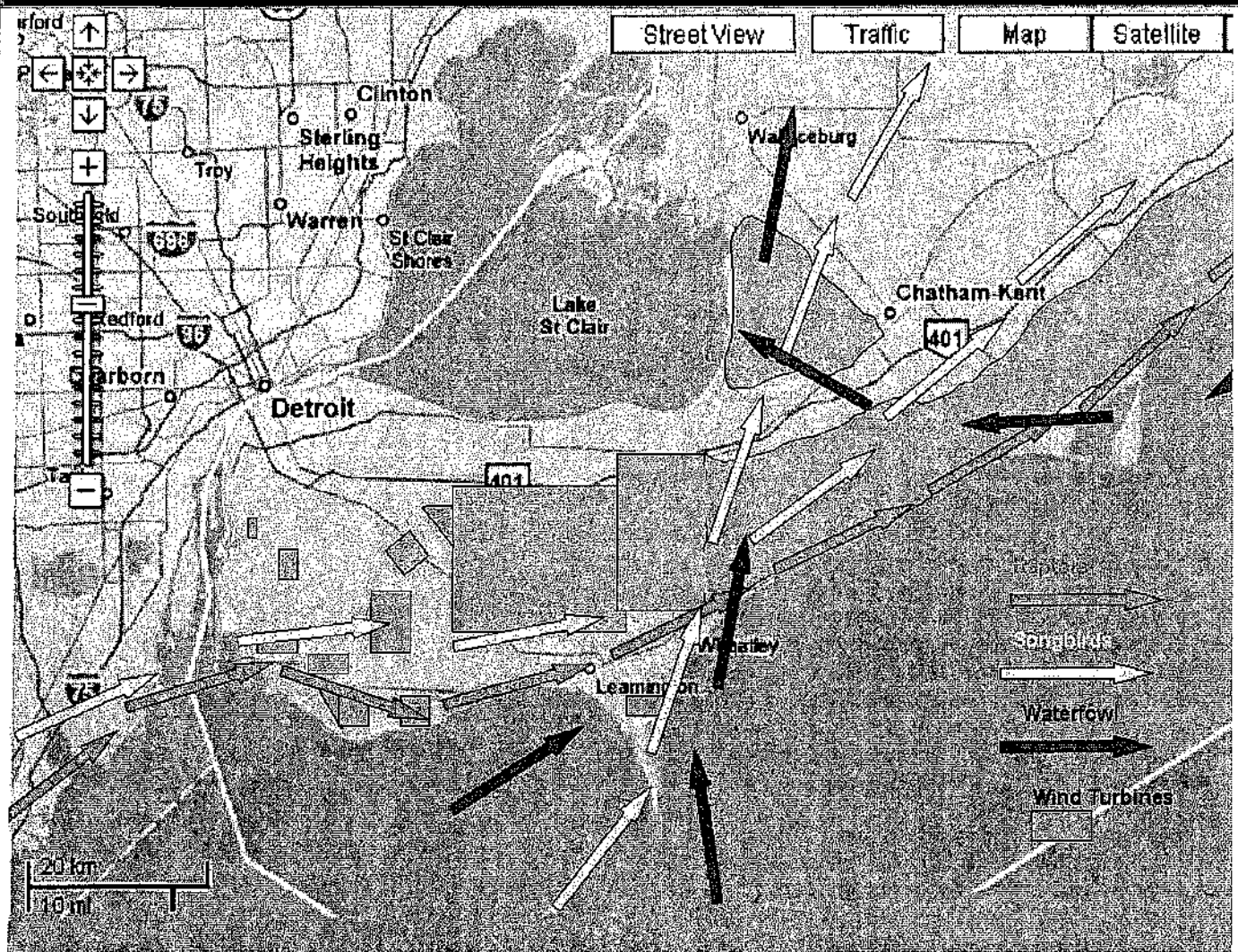
I've been pondering a whole smorgasbord of treats for this banquet. Some traditionally wholesome dishes, like recycling or water use, cry out for a new sauce, to give them a needed zest. Others, like global warming, have become so fattening as to be indigestible; whole new recipes are in order here. My inspiration will come from current issues and events, as well as from things I've been reading, perhaps also from ideas cooked up by readers. Ultimately, his clientele will determine the success of any chef's menu, but it is my intention that the dishes be appetizing, even surprising at times, the ingredients fresh, and the service snappy.

I haven't forgotten the sermon with which I began. The theme of that sermon—which will serve as a watchword for this column—is simply this: you can't have your cake and eat it too.

And a reminder: your comments are welcome, which is why my e-mail address is included. From time to time, I may use this space as a means of taking informal surveys. For example, have you bought any CFL bulbs recently? Any comments on them?

© Mike Foster
mike1.foster@comcast.net

Ontario Migration Bottleneck



Thanks to Tamie Bulow for sharing this daunting map.

American Birding Association, 4945 N. 30th Street, Suite #200
 Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3151 719.578.9703 x233

DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL DFO MEETING

Clarification of DFO Meeting Time in April: Wednesday, April 23

Due to a conflict with the American Museum Association convention at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the April meeting of the Denver Field Ornithologists will be on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23. This is a huge change, as we usually meet on a Monday (or at least for the last year). The doors will close at 7:30 PM so please arrive around 7:15 PM to find a seat to be entertained by another interesting birder/speaker.

February Additional Reports

species	date	nr seen	location	county	observers
Gtr White-fronted Goose	2/3, 2/13	1	Franktown	Douglas	DFO, Hugh & Urling Kingery
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2/8	1	Cherry Creek Res.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Glaucous-winged Gull	2/8	1	Cherry Creek Res.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Great Black-backed Gull	2/15	1	Cherry Creek Res.	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
N. Saw-whet Owl	2/9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Bushtit	2/5	12	Denver	Denver	Bob Rozinski
Bushtit	2/7	10	Greenwood Village	Arapahoe	Flo De Cesar
Bushtit	Daily, Jan-Feb		Centennial yard	Arapahoe	Kevin Corwin; almost daily
Bushtit	Dec-Feb, occasional		Denver	Denver	Joy Schieving
Bohemian Waxwing	2/6	50	Centennial yard	Arapahoe	Kevin Corwin
Bohemian Waxwing	2/15	273	Denver	Denver	Merikay Haggerty
Bohemian Waxwing	2/17	1	Denver	Denver	Bill Eden (with 20 Cedar Waxwings)
Bohemian Waxwing	2/19	11	Highlands Ranch	Douglas	Bob Brown
Harris's Sparrow	2/1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Red Crossbill	2/17	2	Denver	Denver	Bill Eden
Red Crossbill	2/20	2	Lakewood, Green Mtn	Jefferson	Carol Shouldice; at window feeder
Cassin's Finch	2/5, 12, 15-21	1-4	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522



Welcome New Members!

Joe Bartell, 170 S. Jackson St. # 114, Denver, CO 80209

Daniel and Denise Dundon, 4565 W. 110th Cir., Westminster, CO 80031, 303.325.5823

MacKenzie Goldthwait and Douglas Kibbe, 7953 Quarto Ave., Littleton, CO 80128, 720.981.5689

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Cris Cook (EEF), MacKenzie Goldthwait and Douglas Kibbe (RBA, EEF). Gene and Margo Shimel (RBA)

Thank you!

February Field Trip Summaries

February 2, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Steve Kennedy. **Observers:** Patty Echelmeyer, Pauline Ide, Jennifer May, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 7 miles by car, 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake (95% ice covered), riparian, plains, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Overcast to partly cloudy, 21-35°F, southwest wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 3733 individuals.

February 3, Sunday *Franktown Area (FRA)*

Leader(s): Urling and Hugh Kingery. **Observers:** Debbie Barnes, Jeff Dawson, Carol and Clint Flynn, Gina Gerken, Ivan Getting, Tom Halverstad, Kirk Huffstater, Pauline Ide, Arlene Raskin, Connie and Rick Steinkamp. **Time:** 0830-1400. **Distance:** 37 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel pit, ponderosa pine/douglas fir, grassland, scrub oak woodland. **Weather:** Clear, 20-30°F, occasional wind. **Totals:** 33 species, 696 individuals. **Additional Notes:** At the Walker Pit, a flock of 500 Cackling and Canada Geese include one Greater White-fronted Goose, the first recorded in the Franktown Basin. On the Gateway Mesa Trail, the sparse birds, made sparser by occasional gust of wind, included two soaring ravens, a chugging Canyon Wren, and three Townsend's Solitaires. Gina Ferken's feeders have Red Crossbills coming in at close range, as well as several Pygmy Nuthatches. At Kingery's the ground-feeding birds included 60 juncos of all persuasions, four tree sparrows, and one Harris' Sparrow. The hanging feeders netted three jay species (Stellers, Blue and Western Scrub) plus American Goldfinches, siskins, chickadees and nuthatches.

February 9, Saturday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** Pauline Ide, Peter Lohaus, Jennifer May, Jeannie Mitchell, Mary Ellen Moore, Tom Parchman. **Time:** 0800-1100. **Distance:** 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Scrub oak, open meadows. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 90% snow cover, 31-45°F. **Totals:** 14 species, 95 individuals. **Additional Notes:** Also saw rock squirrels, mule deer, coyote.

February 10, Sunday *Longmont (LON)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Susan Barnteg, Jacque Chartier, Warren Finch, Ivan Getting, Dianna and Wayne Johnston, Suzan Joy, Jim Petri, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Larry and Roni Wilson. **Time:** 0800-1330. **Distance:** 40 miles by car. **Habitat:** Ponds, agricultural, wetlands. **Weather:** Overcast, 20-30°F, variable wind, 0-10 mph. **Totals:** 25 species, 474 individuals.

February 16, Saturday *Belmar Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Bob Shade. **Observers:** Melissa Smith, Teresa Doenges, Chloe Tewksbury, Pauline Ide, Derek Hanking, Jean Dais, Jeannie Mitchell, Betty and Don Minges, Deb Wittwer, Marcie Milliken, Baravara Cavender, Dan Brachear. **Time:** 0900-1115. **Distance:** .5 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, marsh, riparian, grassland, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Clear, lake 90% frozen, 28-50°F, south wind, 1-3 mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 178 individuals. **Additional Notes:** White checked geese all out feeding. The Harrier was resident this winter and put on quite a show. The Townsend's Solitaire sat still below eye level 20' away. Passerines very scarce.

February 17, Sunday *Northeast Plains (NOR)*

Report not available at time of printing

February 23, Saturday *South Platte River Park and Area (SOU)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Tom Bush, Diane Carter, Diana Douglass, Jeff Dawson, Patty Echelmeyer, Bill Eden, Teresa Gurth, Thomas Holub, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Jennifer May, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 0730-1200. **Distance:** 6 miles by car, 1.75 miles on foot. **Habitat:** River, river riparian, lakes, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Overcast to partly cloudy, 29-52°F, north wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 41 species, 469 individuals.

February Field Trip Summaries, continued

February 24, Sunday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)*

Leader(s): Patty Echelmeyer. **Observers:** Diane Carter, Jean Doirs, Mike Foster, Leslie Gerard, Fred Hager, Veronica Holt, Pauline Ide, Tom Parchman, Melissa Smith, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Pixie Wigfall, Deb Wittwer. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake and riparian, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 25-55°F. **Totals:** 36 species, 592 individuals.

Additional Notes: No frigid weather today! Up close and personal views of a canvasback duo (new species for new birders with us). Three brown creepers (busy being camouflaged). Black and whites of all kinds on the lakes (common goldeneyes, buffleheads, hooded and common mergansers) etc. Plus it was challenging to search for the sources of lots of songs, calls and chatter.

Tuesday Birders

February 5 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (PRO)* Cancelled due to inclement weather.

February 12 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (PRO)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 34 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, cottonwood, ponds, lakes, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Partly sunny, 35-45°F, southeast wind, 5-10 mph. **Totals:** 41 species, 599 individuals.

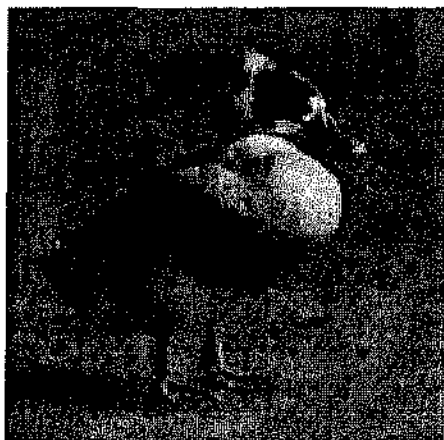
February 19 *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 41 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, wetland, manmade lake, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Mild, sunny, 34-60°F, no wind. **Totals:** 31 species, 625 individuals.

February 26 *Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield (DEN)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 27 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, cottonwood, willow cattails, open fields, elevation 5500. **Weather:** Cool, sunny, 31-50°F, wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 228 individuals.

If you would like the Field Trip Summary table that lists each sighting, you will find it on the DFO web site, www.dfobirders.org



According to photographer Dave Cameron, this bird he found at a pond just east of Simms and Brandt is a Mallard!



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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred whenever possible.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson, meander303@mac.com, compiled by Kim Sawyer, 4617 S. Flanders Way, Centennial CO 80115, kimmer815@aol.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (**Electronic Lark Bunting**) \$20.00

One Year Family Membership (**First Class Mail Lark Bunting**) \$25.00

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name:

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120**



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

May 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 5



May Field Trips and the 27th Annual Spring Count

Saturday, May 3

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194. Meet leader at 0730 at the Nature Center. The trip may go past lunch time so bring lunch and drinking water. State Parks Pass required. This will be an easy, gentle hike. From Denver, take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, Exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Road, and then turn south for approximately 2 miles to park entrance.

Sunday, May 4

Pawnee National Grasslands and Crow Valley Campground

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet leader at 0600 at Jim Hamm Nature Center – From I-25 take exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld Co. Line Road, then 2 miles north to park on left at E. 17th Ave. Bring lunch, snacks and drinking water as trip will go past noon. Pawnee National Grasslands has a wonderful array of prairie birds and the Crow Valley Campground often serves as a migrant trap. Call leader to register for the trip.

Friday May 16 to Sunday May 18

Bonnie State Park

Leader: Bob Righter, 303-692-8529. Meet leader at the Foster's Campground at 1700, Friday night. Friday night the group will bird around the Foster's campground area. You can camp there or stay in a motel in Idalia or Burlington. You will need to bring all your meals. Trip will end at noon on Sunday. State Parks Pass is required. This may be the last of the excellent birding at Bonnie since they are changing the water flow into the dam.

Saturday, May 17

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Steve Kennedy, 303-690-8265. Meet leader at 0700 at the west entrance of park. Go east from Yosemite St. on Union Ave. past Cherry Creek High School. Bring water and lunch as trip may go past lunch. State Parks Pass.

Sunday, May 18

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a moderate hike up Carpenter's Peak which will involve 1000 foot gain in altitude. This trip often produces golden eagles, ovenbirds, grosbeaks and other foothill species. State Parks Pass required or \$6 entrance fee per car. Bring lunch, snacks and extra drinking water. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles) This trip will end about 1 pm.

Thursday, May 22

Small Owl Prowl

Leader: Ted Floyd, 303-444-6363, tfloyd@aba.org (email preferred.) Meet at 1930 (7:30 pm) in the King Soopers parking lot at the southwest intersection of South Broadway and Table Mesa in South Boulder. We will depart promptly for the Flatirons. **CARPOOLING REQUIRED!** We will be parking in locations that can accommodate only two or three vehicles. **THIS IS A STRENUOUS HIKE IN THE DARK IN RUGGED MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.** We will listen for the following owls: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl, and

Continued on next page

May Field Trips, continued

Flammulated Owl. We will also listen for Common Poorwills and nocturnal migrant passerines. Participation limited, RSVP required. Contact Ted Floyd to register for the trip.

Saturday, May 24

Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, May 25

Wheat Ridge Green Belt

Leader: Patty Echelmeyer, 303-233-4947. Meet at 7:30 at the north side of Prospect Park Lake south of West 44th Ave. just east of Robb St. This is an excellent area to see warblers as well as shore and water birds. This will be a half day trip so lunch is optional. This trip will involve easy walking only. This is a good trip for novice birders and new members.

Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)

88th and South Platte Trail

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet leader at 7:30 at the parking area at E. 88th and the South Platte River – From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. Explore along the river on the bike path which is paved and level. Bring lunch and drinking water.

*Advance notice! Mark your calendars August 30 to June 1, Crescent Lake Trip with Chris Owens.
This is a wonderful trip to prairie pothole country in Nebraska.*

Nota Bene...

From Mary Cay Burger

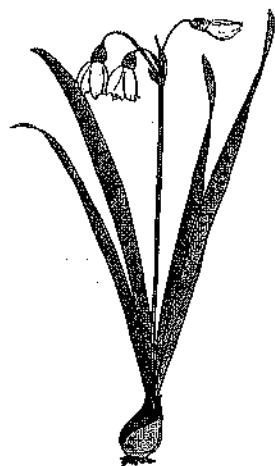
A BIG THANK YOU to Walter Hackney who donated to DFO four boxes of bird magazines, journals and books. We will give these out at meetings in the future.

From Patty Echelmeyer

Sylvia Brockner, writer, conservation and naturalist advocate. Wildlife, nature and open spaces have been the focus of Sylvia Brockner's 88 years. Since moving to Evergreen in 1967, Sylvia has written 1,852 nature columns for the Canyon Courier, which helped establish a naturalist community priority. A lifelong birder, she and her husband Bill founded the Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society in 1978. She was instrumental in organizing the Mountain Area Land Trust, which has preserved 12,000 acres in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Park Counties. She successfully lobbied the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the wetlands at Evergreen Lake. She also helped convince JeffCo Open Space to preserve Lair O'The Bear Park in Clear Creek Canyon.

From Meredith Anderson

Colorado Birders lost an invaluable friend, mentor and champion with the passing on February 27 of Richard Levad. Rich engaged his struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) with valor and grace, adding all the while to our collective knowledge of birds and their habitats. After retiring from teaching high school English on the Western Slope, Rich gave selflessly of his skills and talent with his research of bird species as varied as Black Swift (look for his book to be published soon), Purple Martin, and Western Screech, Flammulated and Long-eared Owls. He began a project called Project Colony Watch which has added immeasurably to our knowledge of the breeding habits and locations of Herons, Grebes and Cormorants in our state. He was an integral part of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Field Ornithologists and Grand Valley Audubon, and was a very deserving recipient of the CFO Ron Ryder Award. His work will live on, and his spirit and dedication will continue to inspire all who knew him. Thank You, Rich.



Spring Count

27th Annual Spring Bird Count, May 9, 10 & 11, 2008

Bird till you drop! Everyone welcome – just show up. More eyes spot more birds.
No fee, no pre-registration.

Friday, May 9

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Mary Burger, 303-771-3431. Meet at 0700 at Marina on west side (near Cherry Creek High School) of Cherry Creek State Park.

Saturday, May 10

Barr Lake periphery

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet at 0730 on access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park. This trip does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0600 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Waterton, downstream.

Leader: Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723. Meet at 0600 at Audubon Center/Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning from Wadsworth (Colo. 121) onto Waterton/Roxborough road (4.4 miles south of C470) and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon.) 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035. Meet at 0630 at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane; go east about ¼ mile and turn right (south) on Lark Bunting Lane, to end of road. This is a ten-mile, all-day hike around the lake. State Parks pass required.

Sunday, May 11

Lower Bear Creek

Leader: Mike Henwood (303-716-8551) hawkhen@aol.com. Meet at 0730 in front of Albertson's, northwest quadrant, South Sheridan Blvd. and Hampden.

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Randy Lentz, 303-680-3381. Meet at 0630 at old entrance. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Must register with leader in advance.

Great Backyard Bird Count Sets New Records

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY, March 2008--Bird watchers outdid themselves during the 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Participants submitted more than 85,700 checklists during the four-day event, February 15-18, surpassing last year's all-time record by several thousand. Participants also identified a record 635 species and sent in thousands of stunning bird images from around the continent.

Birders who had heard about the massive seed production failure in trees across northern Canada were expecting a huge influx of northern finches coming south to look for food. "As predicted, there were record numbers of GBBC reports for Pine Grosbeak," says Rob Fergus, Senior Scientist with the National Audubon Society. It was also a banner year for Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks, reported in their highest numbers in several years. In this year's GBBC, Yellow-billed Magpie numbers hit a new low. Magpies, crows, and jays are especially susceptible to the West Nile virus. For the past few years the population of Yellow-billed Magpies has declined following the spread of the virus to California. Nationwide, American Crow and Blue Jay numbers appear to have stabilized somewhat, but bear continued monitoring as the populations of these birds continue to adapt to the presence of this new disease.

The GBBC charts the explosive geographic expansion of Eurasian Collared-Doves. The species has spread aggressively since it was introduced in Florida in 1980 and made new inroads this year. For the first time, GBBC records of this bird came from British Columbia, Manitoba, and Oregon.

Some species showed up in Great Backyard Bird Count reports for the very first time, including a Masked Duck in Texas--a bird that is usually found in the tropics. An Arctic Loon, seldom seen outside Alaska, was spotted in California. An Ivory Gull wandered down from the high Arctic to show up on a checklist in South Dakota. "Each year, awareness of the GBBC seems to spread," says Cornell Lab of Ornithology Citizen Science Director Janis Dickinson. "Committed individuals, nature centers, parks, and schools adopted the GBBC as their own in an unprecedented way this year. They held bird walks, ID workshops, and many other events tied to the count." Pre-schoolers built feeders out of milk jugs. An artist painted a mural of urban birds in Hollywood. One participant commented, "Participating in the bird count has given my children a little taste of what it is like to be a scientist."

For an even more detailed summary of this year's results, visit the GBBC web site at www.birdcount.org. You can explore maps, see beautiful photos, prize-drawing winners, and the list cities and towns that topped their state or province for the number of checklists submitted--our "checklist champs."

The Great Backyard Bird Count returns February 13-16, 2009!

Top 10 most-reported birds in the 2008 GBBC:

- 1) Northern Cardinal
- 2) Mourning Dove
- 3) Dark-eyed Junco
- 4) Downy Woodpecker
- 5) American Goldfinch
- 6) Blue Jay
- 7) House Finch
- 8) Tufted Titmouse
- 9) Black-capped Chickadee
- 10) American Crow

Media Note: Visit the "Explore the Results" pages on the GBBC web site to find the list of Top 10 birds reported in your state or province. Stop by the Press Room for more information about the 2008 count: www.birdcount.org/press.

Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, pel27@cornell.edu, 607.254.2137

Demeter's Torch: Global Warming Part 1

Writing a short essay on global warming may be about as effective as spraying an angry rhinoceros with a water gun. Still, a raging rhino is an apt symbol for the widespread and devastating effects of all forms of climate change. There is no longer any doubt about the impact of global warming on the environment. What remains controversial is how much of it we are causing. I'll deal with that in Part Two.

Here are a few of the threats posed by that raging rhino.

1. Decreasing supply of fresh water

Glaciers are receding at both poles, and in all mountain ranges of the world. Glaciers hold most of the world's reserve of fresh water for drinking—at a time of growing population.

Polar ice shelves and sea ice are eroding faster than fresh snow can replace them. All oceans of the world are warming, and sea levels are rising as warm water expands. Influx of fresh water from receding glaciers and melting ice adds to rising sea levels.

2. Decreasing food resources

As Antarctic ice shelves diminish, so do the number of krill that grow there, with direct impacts on creatures like penguins and whales, and indirect impacts on the whole food chain that depends on this basic food source.

As the oceans absorb greenhouse gases, not only do they warm but they become more acidic. More acidic oceans make it difficult for mollusks, crustaceans, and corals to make the shells which protect them. (Nearly half of the U.S. seafood catch (46%) includes such creatures.) Increasing oceanic acidity also decreases the productivity of phytoplankton, the tiny plants that, through photosynthesis, make possible the oceanic food web, and provide the planet with half its oxygen.

3. Flooding, storms, disease, instability

Rising sea levels have already created a host of interrelated problems in places as diverse as island nations (e.g., Tuvalu, Kiribati, the Maldives, and the Marshall Islands), Bangladesh (90% of which is flood plain), The Netherlands, Venice, London, villages and hunting grounds of the Inuit and Iñupiaq peoples in the Arctic, and, closer to home, the Everglades, Cape Hat-

teras, Delaware and Chesapeake Bays.

Besides the obvious losses of human property, more subtle results are the salinization of water supplies, loss of tidal pools, mangroves, salt marshes and other habitats near shorelines. While warming may not impact the number of tropical storms, it does seem to influence their severity. Warming is implicated in the outbreak of fungi that are killing amphibians, and in the dramatic increases in malaria, Dengue fever, hantavirus, and West Nile virus.

From such fertile ground grow social disorder, displaced people, economic disruption, insecurity, and war—all due to greater needs but declining resources.

4. It's all connected

Twenty-five percent of the Northern Hemisphere consists of frozen soil (permafrost) that is gradually melting, causing release of more CO₂ and methane (an even more powerful greenhouse gas than CO₂), with added impacts on global warming. Yes, because of warming, more plants are growing, and plants absorb CO₂, but the decomposition of organic matter in the permafrost is proceeding faster, meaning a net gain in greenhouse gases.

Also the balance among plants is shifting, away from sedges and forbs favored by wildlife, toward shrubs and grasses, which kill off the lichen and mosses that support wider biodiversity.

Because of warming, the boreal forest is expanding into the fragile tundra of the Northern Hemisphere. But while warming helps the forest expand, it causes other problems, notably fires and insect infestations, the ravages of which are growing.

Plants are setting seed and budding earlier. Birds are migrating earlier, and to more northerly locations. Many species are on the move to find more suitable habitats. Thousands of scientific studies, based on long-term comparisons, have shown the disruptive effects of species moving to higher latitudes, and into higher elevations.

The problem is, not all those on the move can survive. Think of habitat as a place to live. Consider niche as a way of making a living. Species must have both. And species don't live alone. They live in communities

Continued on next page

6th Annual Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival



June 4-8, 2008

Carrington, North Dakota

(Early Birds - Register by May 14. Group Discounts!)

Dear Birding Enthusiast:

This is your personal invitation to join us in Carrington, North Dakota, for the *6th Annual Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival* June 4-8, 2008, sponsored by *Birding Drives Dakota*.

Join nationally known birding experts Bill Thompson, III, and Julie Zickefoose of *Bird Watcher's Digest* as we explore the prairie pothole region of central North Dakota for the Baird's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, Piping Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, Clark's Grebe, Red-necked Grebe and many, many more! Check out Julie's article about her birding experiences in North Dakota at - http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/travel/north_dakota.aspx



Demeter's Torch: Global Warming, continued

consisting of friends, rivals, and deadly enemies. Each community is uniquely adapted to such physical factors as temperature, moisture, soil content, wind, and sunlight, which compose a particular ecosystem.

So it's not just a matter of finding another habitat, but also a viable niche, among a suitable group of other animals, plants, and microbes, surrounded by a supportive ecosystem. Some species can change and adapt, if given enough time. But biodiversity has been declining steadily for the last 11,000 years, due to a variety of human activities, beginning with regular farming.

Global warming has only accelerated the pace of extinctions. In the normal course of events, some species disappear regularly (so-called background extinction), at a rate estimated to be one species every four years. But in the last 100 years conservative estimates are that between 1,500 and 15,000 species have been going extinct every year. Others estimates (by no means the highest) are 30,000 a year, which would put us in the range of the five greatest mass extinctions of the past 440 million years, when, in each instance, at least 65% of all species disappeared.

If you are not yet convinced, I would recommend two excellent books: *Red Sky at Morning* (Yale, 2004), by James Speth, and *Earth Under Fire* (Univ. of CA, 2007), by Gary Braasch. Speth is dean of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and, as you would expect, his book is penetrating, scholarly, and thorough. Braasch is an award winning photojournalist, who, with clear language and revealing pictures, has documented how global warming is changing the world. For those of you ready to take action, pages 231-37 of Speth's book will get you moving.

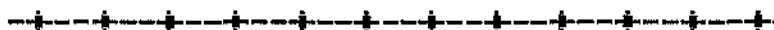
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March Additional Reports

Species	Date	nr seen	Location	County	Observers
Goose, Gr White-fronted	3/3	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling Kingery
Goose, Gr White-fronted	3/8	1 adult	Franktown - Walker Lake	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Steve Stachowiak
Swan, tundra	3/1 to 9	2	Walker Pit	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery et al.; originally found Feb. 22 by Tom Halverstadt
Swan, tundra	3/8	2	Franktown - Walker Lake	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Steve Stachowiak
Canvasback	3/22	4	South Platte Park	Arapahoe	Doris Cruze, Anne Bonnell, Bill Eden, et al
Goldeneye, Barrow's	3/8	1 male	McClellan Reservoir	Arap/Douglas	Joey Kellner, Steve Stachowiak
Turkey Vulture	3/24	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling Kingery
Ferruginous Hawk	3/11	2	Matheson	Elbert	Urling & Hugh Kingery, Atlas Code P
Peregrine Falcon	3/29	1	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Denver Audubon bird class
Sandhill Crane	3/23	50	Castlewood Canyon St Pk	Douglas	Karen Meltz
American Avocet	3/22	1	McClain pit	Douglas	Hugh Kingery, Mark Peterson, et al.
Greater Yellowlegs	3/22	1	McClain pit	Douglas	Hugh Kingery, Mark Peterson, et al.
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3/13 to 17	1	Victor	Teller	Rick Fooshee
Long-eared Owl	3/14 to 31	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery; started vocalizing close to full moon.
N. Saw-whet Owl	3/1 to 31	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery; more vocal during full moon.
Tree Swallow	3/28	15	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Eastern Bluebird	3/12	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kingery
Gray Catbird	3/12	1	Franktown	Douglas	Tom Halverstadt
Northern Mockingbird	3/22	1	Carson Nature Center	Arapahoe	Doris Cruze, Anne Bonnell, Bill Eden, et al
Sparrow, sage	3/30	1 along the road	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner
Sparrow, Lincoln's	3/2	1 still present	Private Residence in Littleton	Jefferson	Joey Kellner
Harris's Sparrow	3/8	1	Waterton	Jeffco	Denver Audubon Master Birders
Harris's Sparrow	3/1 to 23	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh Kingery
Blackbird, rusty	3/30	9 (2f, 7m) singing!	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522



Welcome New Members!

Mary Loving-Driscoll, 2039 S. Alton Ct., Denver, CO 80231, 303.695.6628

Jennifer May, 13618 E. Bethany Place # 304, Aurora, CO 80014, 720.535.9086

Pamela Munroe, 12829 Mayfair Way # D, Englewood, CO 80112, 719.989.4342

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Jim Fischer (RBA), Lois Levinson (RBA, EEF)

Thank you!

March Field Trip Summaries

March 1, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Mary Burger. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Diana Douglass, Warren Finch, Teresa Gurth, Derek Hankins, Barbara Hoover, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Margie Mills, Ted Pinkert, Mary Ann Rose, Bob Spencer. **Time:** 0800-1400. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, short grass prairie, lake, elevation 5550'. **Weather:** Warm, windy, partly cloudy, 50-73°F, south wind, 10-20mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 394 individuals. **Highlights:** Record warm, Chinook winds. 7 Bald Eagles scattered across the ice on lake. First pelicans of spring. Heard Virginia Rails at two spots of cattails along the creek south of 12 mile picnic area. Discussion of which species of shrike flew away. Magpies were nest building. Glaucous-winged Gull seen by Don Beltz.

March 2, Sunday *Westminster Wanderings (WES)* Cancelled due to inclement weather.

March 6, Thursday *Canon City and Environs (CAN)*

Leader(s): Charles Thornton-Kolbe and SeEtta Moss. **Observers:** Veronica Holt, Bob Shade, Patty Echelmeyer, Ira Sanders, Rick Steinkamp, Connie Steinkamp, Jeannie Mitchell, Mary Ellen Moore, Rickey Moore. **Time:** 0600-1800. **Distance:** 280 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Weather:** Cool and sunny, 40°F, varied wind. **Totals:** 55 species, 1058 individuals.

Highlights: Besides seeing over 1000 individuals on this very birdy day, we had a lot of help from all the participants to find species. Led by some nice bird finding, nine of us saw all three Zonotrichia sparrows in one day. Other surprises included seeking about half dozen Juniper Titmouse and three bluebird species. Life birds were added by at least five of the trip participants, three participants added six life birds.

March 8, Saturday *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Leader(s): Mike Serruto. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Jeffrey Dawson, Jim Duggan, Tina Fanning, Christy Hannen, Pauline Ide, Nina Routh, Betty Shaw, Paul Slingsby. **Time:** 0900-1530. **Distance:** 15 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed coniferous hillsides, willow riparian, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Cold, clear, 42°F, wind, 2mph. **Totals:** 9 species, 21 individuals.

March 9, Sunday *Garden of the Gods (GAR)* Report not available at time of printing.

March 15, Saturday *South Platte Park (SOU)*

Leader(s): Bill Eden. **Observers:** Dick Prickett, Sue Ponsor, Mark Ponsor, Connie Steinkamp, Leslie Gerard, Meri-Kay Haggerty, Karen Bellina, Pam Norris, Mary Keithler. **Time:** 0800-1100. **Distance:** 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, shortgrass, marsh. **Weather:** Clear, 29°F, wind, 4-7 mph. **Totals:** 30 species, 179 individuals.

March 16, Sunday *Longmont Area (LON)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Patty Echelmeyer, Diana King, Jan Ormes, Jim Petri, Dick Pratt, Danny Roche, Betsy Shaw, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 0830-1330. **Distance:** 36 miles by car. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds and lakes, agricultural, elevation 5000'. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, 35-45°F, variable wind, 0-10 mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 1244 individuals. **Highlights:** Rare and accidental species – 1 varied thrush

March 22, Saturday *Sedalia Area including Cherokee Ranch (SED)*

Leader(s): Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** Debra Bogar, Diana Douglas, Derek Hankins, Pauline Ide, Toni Rautus, Betsy Shaw, Connie and Rick Steinkamp. **Time:** 0800-1430. **Distance:** 21 miles by car, 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Scrub oak, ponderosa pine, open grassland and residential, elevation 5800-6500'. **Weather:** AM clear, PM partly cloudy, 36-45°F, north wind, 5-15mph. **Totals:** 33 species, 199 individuals.

Highlights: The trip began with a nice view of an adult Lewis' Woodpecker north of Sedalia. At Cherokee Ranch,

March Field Trip Summaries, continued

we enjoyed 5 mountain bluebirds, 16 western bluebirds, 3 kinds of quiche, all 5 races of dark-eyed junco and a red-tailed hawk building nest.

March 29, Saturday *Boulder Lakes (BOU)*

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Mary Burger, Jim Duggan, Warren Finch, Chuck Hundermark, Melissa Millikan, Pam Munroe, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, Betsy Shaw, Bob Shade. **Time:** 0700-1400. **Distance:** 50 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Sunny, west wind, 10mph. **Totals:** 52 species, 708 individuals.

Highlights: Ducks all rise, here comes the judge – a peregrine falcon. One red-tail on nest.

March 30, Sunday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)* No report received.

Tuesday Birders

March 4 *Old Stone House (OLD)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Arlene Larson. **Observers:** 39 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, with meadows, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Calm to gusty, 43-50°F, west/southwest wind with gusts to 20mph. **Totals:** 23 species, 280 individuals.

March 11 *Waterton Canyon (WAT)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 44. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Plains, riparian, grassland, cottonwood, willow, with rock outcrops, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Calm, clear, 39-62°F, west wind with gusts 0-12mph. **Totals:** 30 species, 98 individuals.

March 18 *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 38. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, open water, shoreline, elevation 5430'. **Weather:** Calm, clear, 30-51°F. **Totals:** 35 species, 471 individuals.

March 25 *Walden Ponds (WAL)*

Leader(s): Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 33. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponds, riparian, marsh, grasslands, elevation 4500'. **Weather:** Sunny, 40-53°F, northeast wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 42 species, 365 individuals.



This photo of a Short-eared Owl was taken by Ted Schroeder of Oregon during the 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count.

2008 was a poor year for northern owl sightings across most of southern Canada and the northern United States. Only 10 Great Gray Owls were reported this year, a far cry from the 672 reported in the banner invasion year of 2005. Snowy Owls were found in nine states, indicating average southbound movements for that arctic bird, with most reports coming in from farther north in Manitoba and Quebec.



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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Carolyn Cooley, 941 W. Kettle Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00

One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting) \$25.00

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

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Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

June 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 6



June Field Trips

Sunday, June 1

Northeast Colorado - Tamarac Ranch and Jumbo Reservoir

Leader: Joey Kellner, (303)978-1748 <mailto:vireo1@comcast.net>

We'll be looking for late migrants (shorebirds) and breeders (great-crested flycatcher, Field Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, etc.). Meet at the Dow Office, 6060 N. Broadway at 0430 - Yes, 4:30 a.m.! State Wildlife Habitat Stamp required of all participants. Long, all-day trip. Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, and insect repellent, and a scope if you have one. Notify Leader if you plan to participate.

Saturday, June 7

Foothills Songbirds - Jefferson County

Leader: Mike Henwood, (303)716-8551

Enjoy a 7-mile hike through a variety of foothills habitats while listening to warblers, vireos and more at the top of their musical form! Ovenbird is a possible find. You must register with the Leader for this trip as participation is limited. Plan on a good 3/4 day trip; pack a lunch, water, snacks, sunscreen, and please wear adequate footwear.

Sunday, June 8

More Foothills Songbirds

Leader - Mike Henwood, (303)716-8551

This is a milder version of the June 7 trip, with 2 to 3 miles of leisurely walking through much of the same terrain, minus the higher elevations. Limited participation, advance registration required. Half-day trip, lunch optional.

Saturday, June 14

Golden Gate State Park

Leader - Mike Serruto, (303)377-9870

Meet Leader at 0800 at the Park Visitor's Center. We will be looking for summer birds hat nest in the Park (flycatchers, woodpeckers, vireos, etc.) then break for lunch and and bird either Green Ranch or White Ranch Park in the afternoon. Full Day trip; bring lunch, water, and adequate gear for changing weather conditions.

Sunday, June 15

Lyons Area

Leader: Raymond Davis, (303)823-5332.

Meet Leader at the Lyons Park 'n Ride 1/2 block south of the traffic light on the main street. Bird along Old South Road in the morning, look for Bobolink in nearby fields and then enjoy your lunch from the Davis' back deck overlooking Boulder County open space. Bluebirds, Grosbeaks, Nuthatches, Vireos, Flycatchers, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren all probable. Leisurely walking, a good trip for those who require easy accessibility. Contact Meredith Anderson for carpool info at (303)280-8576 or meander303@mac.com.

Saturday, June 21

Bailey Nesting Area, Summit County

Leader: Norm Lewis, (303)988-5544.

Meet Leader at 0830 at the Wendy's parking lot in Silverthorne. Excellent diversity of habitat (riparian, beaver

Continued on next page

June Field Trips, continued

meadows, coniferous) supports a variety of nesting birds - MacGillivray's Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-naped Sapsucker are possible. Northern Pygmy-owl has been seen on this trip. Plan on a full day, bring lunch and water, and dress for altitude. Please advise Leader if you plan to participate so the group doesn't leave without you!

Sunday, June 22 *Lair o' the Bear*

Leader: Nifia Routh, (303)987-8687.

Meet Leader at 0730 at the parking lot; from C-470 exit Morrison Road, then west on Highway 74 through Idledale; road curves left, Park will be on the left. Half-day trip, lunch optional. Call to let Leader know if you plan to attend.

Friday, June 27 *Eastern Plains Birding*

Leader: Chuck Thornton-Kolbe, (303)777-7588

Meet Leader at the Park 'n Ride at Yale Ave. just west of I-25. Join Chuck and renowned bird guide Johnnie Yamugisha from Uganda for a fun day searching for plains specialties, notably longspurs, buntings, sparrows, shrike, and possibly Mountain Plover. Riparian species and shorebirds probable. Full day trip; bring lunch, water, snacks, sunscreen, a scope if you have one. Carpooling from the Park 'n Ride is likely.

Sunday, June 29 *Rocky Mountain National Park*

Leader: Chris Owens, (303) 772-6048.

Meet Leader at the Beaver Meadows Visitors' Center at 0730. Look for songbirds, woodpeckers, swallows and siskins, then move up to treeline to search for Ptarmigan. 3/4 day trip; bring lunch, and dress for high-altitude birding.

Friday, July 4 to Sunday, July 6 *North Park*

Leader: Chuck Lowrie, (303) 455-8417.

Meet at Safeway parking lot on east side of U.S. 40 in Fraser at 0900 on Friday morning (Fraser is a 1.75 mile drive from Denver). Make reservations for Friday/Saturday nights in Walden at North Park Inn, (970) 723-4721, or the Chedsey Motel, (970) 723-8201. A State Parks Pass and (if <65 Yrs.) a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp are required. Call Leader if going to arrange carpooling from Denver. Bring water, snacks, lunches, insect repellent and clothing for variable weather.



Nota Bene

From Sue Schulman on behalf of Karleen Schofield.

Karleen wishes to extend her heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to DFO members who have phoned or sent cards or notes expressing their concern, sympathy and prayers during the illness and following the death of her husband Jim, who died in March shortly after the diagnosis of cancer in January. Karleen said, "Each of you helped ease my sorrow".

From Peggy Gonder: Donation Honors NW Colorado Bird Guide & Mine.

The 14 participants in the Northwest Colorado grouse trip made a donation to the DFO Endowment Fund in honor of Forrest Luke for all his help showing us birds in Routt and Moffatt County. The gift also recognizes Trapper Mine, Forrest's employer, for its 30-year commitment to restoring habitat on the mine property. Forrest has planted a mix of 30 different types of seeds to maintain habitat for sharp-tail grouse and many other species.

We saw 60 sharp-tail grouse displaying April 26 as well as a ferruginous hawk on the nest. Forrest also recruited his associate Graham Roberts to help the group locate two leks of greater sage grouse north of Craig on Sunday morning. The DFO Endowment fund makes gifts to advance understanding of birds through educational outreach and grants for research.

Field Trip Summaries for April 2008

April 5, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Joe Bartell, Jacques Chartier, Patty Echelmeyer, Gail Evans, Lisa Gotlin, Christy Honnen, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Alison Kondler, Margie Mills, Connie Mohrman, Pam Munroe, Debra Ostergard, Betsy Rumely, Sue Schulman, Bob Shade, Melissa Smith. **Time:** 0800-1230. **Distance:** 12 miles by car, 4.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian, open water, elevation 5570'. **Weather:** Clear, 40-55°F, southwest wind, 10mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 468 individuals.

Highlights: (by Patty Echelmeyer): An Osprey posed atop a pole in the marina parking lot. All three species of teal appeared in a small pond just after a Barn Swallow perched on a nearby mullein stalk for all to add to their 2008 list.

April 6, Sunday *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Patty Echelmeyer. **Observers:** Jean Davis, Mary and Dave Driscoll, Jean Fredlund, Leslie Gerard, Teresa Jarmar (San Diego), Toni Rautus. **Time:** 0800-1030. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake, "suburban" park, elevation 5550'. **Weather:** Clouds on horizon, blue sky above, 35-45°F, no wind. **Totals:** 37 species, 334 individuals.

Highlights: A single Yellow-rumped Warbler, a lone Tree Swallow, and an all-by-himself Turkey Vulture signaled that spring is flying in. Plus an Avocet fed closer and closer to us, showing off his breeding plumage to an admiring audience of birders.

April 12, Saturday *Aurora's Ponderosa Pine (AUR)* Report not available at time of printing.

April 13, Sunday *Denver Museum of Nature and Science – Bird Collection (DEN)*

Leader(s): Patty Echelmeyer and Jeff Stephenson. **Observers:** Debra Bogar, Jean Davis, Mike Foster, Derek and Peggy Hankins, Pearl Jordan, Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Betsy Shaw, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 1000-1200. **Distance:** Not far. **Habitat:** Mixed cabinets and drawers, elevation 'main floor'. **Weather:** Clear indoors, comfortable temperature, no wind. **Totals:** Too many to count.

Highlights: Great 'trip' led by Jeff Stephenson, Museum Zoology Collections Manager, displaying and describing study skins from the US and around the world. Highlights were numerous, including an Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

April 19, Saturday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Alison Kondler. **Observers:** Jacques Chartier, Dave and Mary Driscoll, Mike Foster, Merikay Haggerty, Mary Katz, Kris Koff, Mary Lynch, Nancy McReynolds, Kathleen Oncrane, Dave Prickett, Richard Sheppard. **Time:** 0900-1130. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, grassland, coniferous, scrub oak, cliff, elevation 5460'. **Weather:** Clear, 45-71°F, east wind, 15mph. **Totals:** 28 species, 134 individuals.

April 20, Sunday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Gregg Goodrich. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Susan Bailey, Bob Brandle, James Duggan, Lyn Graves, Fred Hagen, Caroline Hancock, Christy Hossen, Mary Keithler, Pam Munroe, Toni Rautus, Glenn Rodriguiz, Nina Routh, Betsy Rumely, Judy Sanbora, Paul Slingsby, Tim Smart, Melissa Smith, Jean Stevenson, Pixie Wigfav. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 4 miles on foot. **Weather:** Clear, 50-70°F, south wind, 5 mph. **Totals:** 46 species, 868 individuals.

April 25-27, Fri-Sun *Northwest Colorado (NOR)*

Leader(s): Peggy Gonder and Forrest Luke. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Mark and Sue Ponsor, Jerry Davidson, David Waltman, Derek and Peggy Hankins, Gordon and Paula Hodgson, Dave Mueller, Sandy Johnson. **Time:** 0900 Friday – 1500 Sunday. **Distance:** 750 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, spruce, mountain. **Weather:** Cloudy to sunny, 30-65°F, wind, 0-15mph. **Totals:** 90 species, 1243 individuals. **Highlights:** We saw Barrows Goldeneye courting near Steamboat Springs and many White-faced Ibis. The Greater Sage-grouse were spectacular on the lek north of Craig, lots of chest-puffing!

Continued on next page

Field Trip Summaries for April 2008, continued

Tuesday Birders

April 1 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 30. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 4 miles by car, ¾ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 29-42°F, east wind, 10-15mph. **Totals:** 35 species, 290 individuals.

April 8 *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 29. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 2.53 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, open water, shoreline, elevation 5430'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 45-55°F. **Totals:** 33 species, 201 individuals. **Highlights:** Cooper's Hawk at nest.

April 15 *Hawk Watch and Red Rocks, Denver Mountain Parks (HAW)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 30 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, transitional zone with juniper and ponderosa pine, shrubland and city park, elevation 5700-6600'. **Weather:** Sunny, 63-78°F, southwest wind, 0-20mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 106 individuals.

April 22 *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 33. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattail marsh, open woodlands, grassland, elevation 5350'. **Weather:** Clear, light breeze, 46-64°F, wind variable, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 47 species, 390 individuals.

April 29 *Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield (DEN)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell; Else Van Erp, Judy Miller, Gil Geslin. **Observers:** 37. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Overcast, 60-74°F, southwest wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 41 species, 237 individuals. **Highlights:** 2 Swainson's Hawks nesting; 2 Red-tailed Hawks nesting; 2 American Kestrels nesting; 2 Great Horned Owls near nest. Group cleaned 49 birdhouses and repaired or replaced any needing attention.



Birding 101—by Silhouette

Birds in the same general group often have the same body shape and proportions, although they may vary in size. Silhouette alone gives many clues to a bird's identity, allowing birders to assign a bird to the correct group or even the exact species.

In the illustration from Cornell, are 23 different birds. How many can you recognize just by their silhouettes? Look carefully - don't miss the ones hiding in the leafy tree!

Demeter's Torch: Global Warming Part Two

As I implied in Part One of this essay, the evidence for global warming is now massive and persuasive. Numerous major corporations have accepted it, and are acting to reduce their carbon footprint. So have many nations, states, and local governments.

Despite a growing consensus, deniers of global warming make several arguments; let's examine them critically. Some skeptics still claim that the problems outlined in Part One (and many more I did not mention) are not the result of global warming, or climate change. If you considered only one such problem at a time, you might find plausible explanations for some of them besides global warming. But these events do not exist independently. It is the combined effect of all of them which makes the case for global warming so compelling. No other explanation has been proposed that makes any sense of the extensive and overlapping observations.

Even among those who accept global warming, not everyone is yet willing to admit the extent of humanity's contribution. These critics point to recurring natural cycles that have been going on for millennia, even millions of years. But greenhouse gas levels are higher now than they have been for 650,000 years, possibly for 20 million years. Significantly, they began a deliberate rise with the industrial revolution, and have been climbing ever since.

Some believe that global warming is a fantasy of antibusiness elitists. But if global warming depended only on a political slant, it would have been exposed by scientists with better evidence. That hasn't happened. Instead of offering good evidence, opponents concoct misleading statements: for example, that CO₂ can't be dangerous, because it amounts to only 380 parts per million of the atmosphere. What they don't admit is how efficiently CO₂ absorbs and holds heat, even at tiny levels and especially in combination with other greenhouse gases.

Another artful dodge is that CO₂ is absorbed naturally by the sea, the earth, and trees; it is, but our emissions are now increasing faster than they can be absorbed. Others argue that even if temperatures are rising, no catastrophes will result—a dangerous claim that is based on faith alone and ignores the cumulative evidence.

Other opponents assert that the scientific grounds for global warming are inconclusive, and, besides, are not even accepted by all scientists. Sound familiar? Cigarette companies said the connection of smoking with lung and respiratory disease was unproven. With similar motivation, anti-regulatory groups like the Heartland Institute, in Chicago, now deny the extent of human contribution to global warming. How many similar sophistries must we endure before undertaking practical solutions? Why are we willing to accept the risks and costs of waging war, but balk at confronting a far more menacing problem?

The assertion that not all scientists accept global warming is a deceptive fiction. Holding a Ph.D. in physics or chemistry, for example, does not a climate scientist make; often such "scientists" are shills for an industry whose costs would increase if it had to reduce emissions. Worse, ardent know-nothings with no credentials post their ingenious views on the Internet, hoping to blow away the problem with wishes or greenwash. Awkwardly, the evidence is against them. As is the fact that since the mid 1990s virtually all climate scientists have been in agreement about the dangers of global warming.

The most revealing argument of opponents is that cutting back on emissions will harm the developed countries while giving the developing ones a free pass. This thinking ignores the possibilities of creating a new industrial revolution through green technology, then selling that technology in the developing world; this thinking dismisses conservation and the efficient creation of energy; this thinking remains silent about an economic system in which rich nations control the economic fate of poor ones. This thinking is stuck in the rut of wasteful consumerism, insisting on business as usual—in the same way Detroit ignored small cars until foreign automakers created a market for them. Do I hear King Canute, shouting at the tides to retreat?

Environmental awareness began in North America during the 1970s, focused on regional issues like water and air pollution, and acid rain. By the 1980s most of the world was aware, and the issues had become global. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 by the United Nations Environmental

Continued on next page

Demeter's Torch: Global Warming Part Two, continued

Program and the World Meteorological Organization. Based on the work of thousands of scientists from 130 countries, the IPCC periodically issues reports. The latest one, in February 2007, found the evidence for global warming "unequivocal," and the driving force behind it was "very likely" human activity.

These reports, in turn, have encouraged several international meetings in Rio de Janeiro (1992), Kyoto (1997), and Bali (2007), which are attempting to create agreements to reduce global warming. Ironically, as the world took up what Americans had initiated, the United States retreated from a position of leadership, thanks to the political dominance since Ronald Reagan's time of an ultra conservative branch of the Republican Party. The result is that the United States is now the only large country in the world resisting international efforts at cooperative solutions.

But resistance to international cooperation is not simply a knee-jerk reaction of American conservatives. Isolationism in the United States has a long history, beginning with such stalwarts as George Washington and James Madison. It flourished because of the once-persuasive notion that if we remained aloof from the nationalistic rivalries of Europe, we could avoid the wars and other consequences of those rivalries. Such quaint notions have been overwhelmed since the end of World War II by the greater interconnectedness of nations, which renders our most serious problems global, not national. Environmental issues are now the spearhead of internationalism, penetrating and gradually eroding older conceits of American exceptionalism. The question is, will America rejoin the international community in time to make a difference in alleviating global warming?

© Mike Foster

mike1.foster@comcast.net

Up From the Egg: The Confessions of a Nuthatch Avider

by Ogden Nash

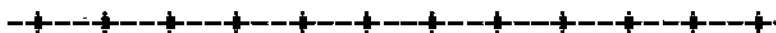
Bird watchers top my honors list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
And there's no enlightenment in a tour
Of ornithological literature.

Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You can rush to consult your Nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books-
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching a clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin.

April Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Loon, common	4/10	1 alternate plumage	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Joey Kellner
Ibis, glossy	4/18	1	Thurston Reservoir	Prowers	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Scoter, Black	4/8	2 (1m, 1f)	Cherry Creek Reservoir	Arapahoe	Bob Brown
Scoter, Black	4/8	1f	Prospect Lake	Jefferson	Bob Spencer
Hawk, Broad-winged	4/27	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Crane, Sandhill	3/30	75, circling+chattering	Mississippi/S Steele	Denver	Carol Hack
Stilt, Black-necked	4/14	5	Rd 42, Lower Latham	Weld	Warren Finch, Bob Shade, Bob Spencer
Godwit, Hudsonian	4/24	1	Union Reservoir	Weld	Bob Spencer, et al
Tern, Least	4/15	1 adult	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Wayne Smiglewski
Dove, white-winged	4/18	2 calling and seen	Two Buttes Reservoir	Baca	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Owl, Long-eared	3/27	1	Morrison	Jefferson	Mike Foster, Mike Henwood, Bob Raker
Owl, Long-eared	4/5	2	Morrison	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Owl, Long-eared	4/20	1	Morrison	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Robert Raker
Flycatcher, Grey	4/20	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Parula, Northern	4/18	1 male singing	Lake Hasty Campground	Bent	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek
Parula, Northern	4/19	1 male	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Steve Stachowiak, Joey Kellner
Parula, Northern	4/25	1 male	Two Buttes Reservoir	Baca	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek, Ric Olson, Dick Schottler
Warbler, Worm-eating	4/25	1	Lamar Community College	Prowers	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek, Ric Olson, Dick Schottler
Waterthrush, Louisiana	4/26	1, found by Mark Miller	Longmont - Pike Road bridge over Lefthand Creek	Boulder	Joey Kellner, Many Observers
Warbler, Wilson's	4/25	2 males	Lamar Community College	Prowers	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Glenn Walbek, Ric Olson, Dick Schottler
Sparrow, Sage	4/11	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522



Welcome New Members!

Judith Crosson 3333 E Bayaud Apt 418 Denver Co 80209, 303-399-0524

Audrey Gilden 100 Blue Heron Ct Greenwood Village Co 80121, 303-520-0903

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Jannette Wesley & Alice Sharp (EEF), Paul & Janet Barrett (RBA), Audrey Gilden (RBA) and (EEF), The 14 participants in the Northwest Colorado grouse trip made a donation to the DFO Endowment Fund in honor of Forrest Luke for all his help showing us birds in Routt and Moffatt County. The gift also recognizes Trapper Mine, Forrest's employer, for its 30-year commitment to restoring habitat on the mine property. Forrest has planted a mix of 30 different types of seeds to maintain habitat for sharp-tail grouse and many other species.

Thank you!

DFO and the Angus Dundee Bird Club Update



Marilyn Binkley and Bob McCurley at the Montreathmont Forest Club "hide"/blind.

On a recent trip to Scotland, Marilyn Binkley, DFO member went birding with the Chairman of the Angus Dundee Bird Club (ADBC), Bob McCurley. ADBC has been "twinned" with DFO for several years now. The twinning came about mainly because of the Lark Bunting's editor, Veronica Holt (Caird), who was born in Dundee and lived and birded in the area for many years. In 2004, ten members of the Scottish club made an extended birding trip to Colorado.

Bob put together an itinerary for the day of Scottish birding that included a number of habitats. The first official stop was to East Stryne Farm to see Mistle Thrush nestlings in a nest. Like all good birders, we birded from the car all the way to the next stop at Murton Wildlife Reserve near Forfar, on to Montreathmont Forest Club Hide (blind), Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre, and finally Redcastle Club Sea-watching hide. With the exception of the Montrose Basin, all the reserves or hides/blinds were on private property, a very interesting concept. In spite of the

very cold and damp weather, spring was definitely in the air with birds singing and calling everywhere. The forest hide/blind was exceptional as there were feeders up only a few feet from the blind, so we had very close looks at some of the birds. Nothing like seeing Chaffinch, Great Spotted and Eurasian Green Woodpeckers, and Eurasian Jay from just a few feet. A total of 65 species were found, of which 35 were lifers for Marilyn. The Scots use different names for some of the birds, so using the scientific names was necessary for determining the common name which we might be familiar with in the US. If you ever go to Scotland and want a great birding experience, contact the Angus Dundee Bird Club at www.angusbirding.homestead.com.

Marilyn's list is below, and the * birds were lifers for her!

Red-throated Diver (Loon)
Northern Fulmar
Northern Gannet
Gray Heron*
Greylag Goose*
Mute Swan
Common Shelduck*
Gadwall
Eurasian Wigeon
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Tufted Duck
Common Eider
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Red-breasted Merganser
Common Buzzard*
Ring-necked Pheasant
Common Moorhen
Eurasian Coot*
Northern Lapwing*
Eurasian Oystercatcher*
Common Redshank*

Sanderling
Mew Gull
Herring Gull
Glaucous Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Sandwich Tern
Guillemot AKA Common Murre
Razorbill*
Rock Dove
Common Wood Pigeon*
Great Spotted Woodpecker*
Eurasian Green Woodpecker*
Eurasian Jay*
Eurasian Jackdaw*
Rook*
Carrion Crow*
Barn Swallow
Sand Martin AKA Bank Swallow
Great Tit*
Blue Tit*
Long-tailed Tit*

Coal Tit*
Winter Wren
Willow Warbler*
European Robin*
Stonechat*
Song Thrush*
Eurasian Blackbird*
Mistle Thrush*
European Starling
Duncock*
Pied Wagtail
Meadow Pipit*
Rock Pipit*
Yellowhammer*
Corn Bunting*
Common Chaffinch*
European Greenfinch*
Eurasian Linnet*
Eurasian Siskin*
European Goldfinch*
House Sparrow

Cornell's NestWatch

Ithaca, NY--What could be cuter than baby birds all atwitter in the nest? But amid the "oohs" and "aahs" are real data about the rhythms of bird biology and how they may be changing as the result of human activity. Combine the "wow" factor of the former with the scientific value of the latter and you have **NestWatch**--a new, free citizen science project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and funded by the National Science Foundation. Participants visit nests during spring and summer to collect simple information about location, habitat, species, number of eggs, and number of young in the nest. Then they submit their observations online.

"NestWatch introduces birding and simple methods of scientific inquiry to families, children, retired adults - people of all ages and skills," says project leader Tina Phillips. "It's easy and fun. It helps people reconnect with nature in their own yard, nearby park, or nature preserve."

Peter Marra from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center at the National Zoo says, "Each and every observation is important because it helps scientists measure the impact of such things as climate change and habitat destruction. Without citizens across the country collecting this information for us it would be almost impossible to track these large-scale destructive processes."

The always-popular **NestCams** companion site has been revamped and is now up and running. Live cameras show the nesting activities of Barn Owls, Wood Ducks, and Northern Flickers in Texas and California. More cameras will be going online across the country in the weeks ahead at www.nestcams.org.

All NestWatch materials and instructions are available online at www.nestwatch.org, including directions on how to find nests and how to monitor them without disturbing the birds.

"One of the most exciting things about NestWatch," says Phillips, "is that we'll be able to take in data from as far back as 1900!" Anyone who's been keeping nest records on their own will now have a way to put that important information to use. With all this information from NestWatchers, scientists will be able to track changes in reproductive timing and fledging success which may be linked to climate change.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.nestwatch.org.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>. Contact: Pat Leonard, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu

North American Big Day Record Broken

A Big Day is a single-team effort in which the primary objective is to identify as many species of birds as possible during a single calendar day. The American Birding Association oversees and verifies all Big Day records. In 2001 the longstanding Big Day record of 231 species was shattered in dramatic fashion and a new record of 258 species was established. Several attempts have been made to best this spectacular total, but all efforts have fallen short.

On April 19th the EDG Birding Team sponsored by Nikon Sport Optics and Birding America set a new Big Day record for the ABA area with 260 species. The day started in the Texas Hill Country and ended in the rice fields of the central Texas Coast. The team, consisting of Ken Behrens, Pete Hosner, Michael Retter, and Cameron Cox, experienced an incredible day of birding.

The total of 260 species in a single day highlights the diversity of habitat in Texas and the need for a strong conservation effort to protect this diversity. The EDG Birding Team has partnered with Houston Audubon to raise funds to protect the internationally significant Bolivar Flats. Houston Audubon is working to acquire a tract of land adjacent their current sanctuary at this location. They have recruited a matching donor, so all the money that is donated will be doubled and then go directly to the Bolivar land acquisition project.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

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Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler
and Alison Hilf.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
--	---------

One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
--	---------

Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
--	-----

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$____
--	--------

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$____
--	--------

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JUNE 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	1	7	8	14	15	21	22	27	28	3	10	17	24	
LOCATION	NOR	WIL	WIL2	GOL	LYO	SUM	LAI	EAS	ROC	LOW	AUD	PAR	SED	
Pied-billed Grebe	1													1
Eared Grebe	26													25
Western Grebe	10													10
American White Pelican	1							6	8					15
Double-crested Cormorant	1							15			3			19
Great Blue Heron	2						2				2	2		8
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1													1
White-faced Ibis	2													2
Turkey Vulture	2		1		1			2	2	5	1		1	15
Canada Goose	8					12		12				11		44
Wood Duck	2													2
Gadwall	2					1		1						4
Mallard	2				1	11	3	10			2	8		37
Blue-winged Teal	105													105
Northern Shoveler	7													7
Northern Pintail	2													2
Green-winged Teal	4					1								6
Redhead	4													4
Lesser Scaup														0
Common Merganser					1									1
Ruddy Duck	50													50
Osprey						2								2
Bald Eagle											1			1
Northern Harrier	2							2				1		5
Sharp-shinned Hawk												1		1
Cooper's Hawk		1	1											2
Accipiter sp.										1				1
Swainson's Hawk	13							6				1		20
Red-tailed Hawk	11	1	3		6	1	3	10	5	1	2	2		45
Rough-legged Hawk														0
Golden Eagle										1				1
American Kestrel	6				1			2			1			9
Prairie Falcon								1						1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1													1
White-tailed Ptarmigan									1					1
Wild Turkey	2													2
Northern Bobwhite	2													2
American Coot	45													45
Killdeer	6							4			1	1		11
Lesser Yellowlegs	1													1
Spotted Sandpiper						2		2				1		6
Upland Sandpiper	3													3
Long-billed Dowitcher														0
Wilson's Phalarope	8													8
Red-necked Phalarope														0
Ring-billed Gull								2						2
Ivory Gull														0
Black Tern	100													100
Rock Pigeon	9				18			80			1			108
Band-tailed Pigeon													2	2
Eurasian Collared-dove	2										2	1		5
Mourning Dove	57	10	10		4		2	10		2	2	6	2	105
Eastern Screech-Owl	6													5
Burrowing Owl	1													1
Long-eared Owl											3			3
Common Nighthawk	1											8		9
Chimney Swift	11													11
White-throated Swift		1			4			40						45
Calliope Hummingbird							1							1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		10	10		6	6	21	14	15	7	4	7	9	109
Rufous Hummingbird														0
Belted Kingfisher	1				1			1						3
Red-headed Woodpecker	5													5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1													1

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JUNE 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	1	7	8	14	15	21	22	27	29	3	10	17	24	
LOCATION	NOR	WIL	WIL2	GOL	LYO	SUM	LAI	EAS	ROC	LOW	AUD	PAR	SED	
Williamson's Sapsucker									8				2	10
Red-naped Sapsucker						1								1
Downy Woodpecker	2	1			2	1	2	2			1		1	12
Hairy Woodpecker	3		3			1			1					8
Northern Flicker	3	5				4	3	3	2	2	2	3	1	28
"Red-shafted" race		(5)				(4)								(9)
Western Wood-Pewee	3				8	1	7	4	2	4	6	4	1	40
Hammond's Flycatcher		1	1			1			1					4
Dusky Flycatcher						1								1
Cordilleran Flycatcher		2	2		5	1	4	1		1			2	18
Buff-breasted Flycatcher														0
Empidonax sp.							1		23					24
Eastern Phoebe	1													1
Say's Phoebe												2		2
Western Kingbird	6		1		1			6		8	8	1	1	31
Eastern Kingbird	7							2				2		11
Bel's Vireo	3													3
Plumbeous Vireo		5	1											6
Warbling Vireo	16	10	10		1	1	8	3	2	3	3	2	4	63
Red-eyed Vireo	1													1
Gray Jay						1							2	3
Stellar's Jay		1			2	3		1	1	2			3	13
Blue Jay	1				1									2
Western Scrub-Jay		10						4						14
Clark's Nutcracker			1											1
Black-billed Magpie	3	1	2		4	2	2	12	4	2	1			33
American Crow		10	10			3		6		1			5	35
Common Raven		5				3		2	1	2				13
Horned Lark	8								1					9
Tree Swallow	2	2	1		3	2	5		1			2		18
Violet-green Swallow		10	10		15	14	5	20	10		2	6	2	93
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2						8	4		3				17
Cliff Swallow	19	10			3			40						72
Barn Swallow	13					1		40		1	2	2	2	61
Black-capped Chickadee					2		5	10		2	1			20
Mountain Chickadee		10	5			5		2	1				1	24
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1							1				1	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	5	2		4		1	2		3				18
Pygmy Nuthatch								4	1				1	6
Brown Creeper								1						1
Canyon Wren					1									1
House Wren	10	5	10		4	1	18	10	3	2	8	7	4	82
American Dipper						3	2							5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		5	2			9	1		5					22
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		10	10				8					2		30
Western Bluebird								2	7				1	10
Mountain Bluebird		1			3		2		4				3	13
Townsend's Solitaire									1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1													1
Hermit Thrush								2					1	3
American Robin	19	10	10		4	12	9	30	20	4	7	11	6	142
Gray Catbird	1						11							12
Brown Thrasher	4													4
European Starling	12				4			60			4			80
American Pipit									10					10
Cedar Waxwing	12				4		11				1	3		31
Tennessee Warbler	1													1
Virginia's Warbler		10	5					2						17
Yellow Warbler	40				9	3	25	4		3	13	4		101
Yellow-rumped Warbler		5	1			4		4					4	18
"Myrtle" race													1	(1)
"Audubon's" race		5	1			4							1	(11)
Ovenbird		11	1					3					1	16
MacGillivray's Warbler		5	3			1		2					1	12
Common Yellowthroat	5					1		1			1			8

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SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	1	7	8	14	15	21	22	27	29	3	10	17	24	
DATE	NOR	WIL	WIL2	GOL	LYO	SUM	LAI	EAS	RDC	LOW	AUD	PAR	SED	
LOCATION	NOR	WIL	WIL2	GOL	LYO	SUM	LAI	EAS	RDC	LOW	AUD	PAR	SED	
Wilson's Warbler	1					4								5
Yellow-breasted Chat	2				2					3	7	1		15
Western Tanager		10	10		1		1	2	2	2			1	29
Green-tailed Towhee		5	4				1		1					11
Spotted Towhee	9	10	10		7		12	8		4			1	61
Chipping Sparrow		5	5			1			10				2	23
Field Sparrow	3													3
Vesper Sparrow			1					1		2				4
Lark Sparrow	2									4		2		8
Savannah Sparrow								3						3
Fox Sparrow						1								1
Song Sparrow		2	2		2	1	10	1		1	2	1		22
Lincoln's Sparrow						3								3
White-crowned Sparrow	1					1			1					3
Dark-eyed Junco		10	2			3						3		22
"Gray-headed" race		(10)	2			3			4			1		(20)
Northern Cardinal	4													4
Black-headed Grosbeak		10	10		3		8	4		3		1	4	43
Blue Grosbeak	1									2		2		5
Lazuli Bunting	1						5	1		6		3		16
Bobolink					7									7
Red-winged Blackbird	13				14			40			15	6	4	92
Western Meadowlark	45	1			2			12		2	1	2		65
Yellow-headed Blackbird								10						10
Brewer's Blackbird					5			1		3	3			12
Common Grackle	6				6	1		60			1	12		86
Great-tailed Grackle	4													4
Brown-headed Cowbird	36	10	10				7	6	1	2	2		2	76
Orchard Oriole	14													14
Baltimore Oriole	2													2
Bullock's Oriole	3				4		6	1		6	1	6		26
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch									3					3
Cassin's Finch		5												5
House Finch					8		10	6			7	7	7	45
Red Crossbill					5				1				2	8
Pine Siskin					12	3		1	5	2			10	33
Lesser Goldfinch		2	2		8		26	6		5	4	3		58
"Green-backed" race										1				(1)
"Black-backed" race		2	2				26			2				(34)
American Goldfinch	5				3		4	6		2	5	9		34
House Sparrow	9							12					2	23
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	882	244	172	0	212	134	262	890	168	108	133	155	102	3,263
TOTAL SPECIES	88	42	36	0	46	43	37	70	37	38	38	40	38	155

OBSERVATION LEGEND: a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, +=also/in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

July 2008

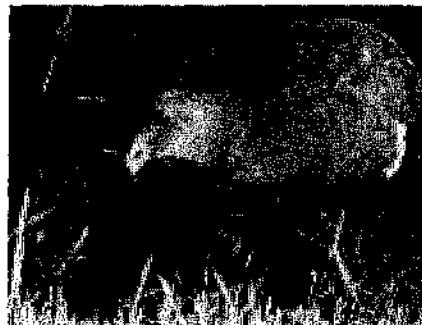
www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 7

Norm Erthal: Birding in Australia—Part Two

Monday, August 18 DFO Meeting

Norm Erthal began presenting his birding experiences and photographs from Australia at the January 2008 meeting, but simply needed more time. The enthusiastic group of over 100 persons demanded he come back and finish up. So at the DFO meeting on Monday, August 18, 2008 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, expect more interesting dialogue, lots of great bird pictures and a view of many of the birding sites around this continent.



Norm lead a group of bird watchers over a 6 week period to a number of birding locations throughout Australia in October and November 2005. Australia (including Tasmania) has over 300 endemics (second most of any area in the world). The group found 465 species, including 241 endemics, all of the Tasmanian endemics, 4 species of Albatross, 7 Bowerbirds, 37 species of Parrots, and 32 Australo-Papuan Warblers. The group was able to observe 45 families not present in North America including Megapodes, Mudnest Builders, Bell-Magpies, and Flowerpeckers. They also saw 58 of 68 Honeyeaters species, the biological replacement of hummingbirds in Australia.

The group covered most of the continent (with the exception of the less birding northwestern part of the country). This presentation will cover their experiences in the following locales:

Continued on page 3



July Field Trips

Friday, July 4 to Sunday, July 6

North Park

Leader: Chuck Lowrie, (303) 455-8417. Meet at Safeway parking lot on east side of US 40 in Fraser at 0900 on Friday morning (Fraser is a 1.75 hour drive from Denver.) Make reservations for Friday/Saturday nights in Walden at the North Park Inn, (970) 723-4271, or the Chedsey Motel, (970) 723-8201. A state parks pass and (if under 65 years) a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp are required. Call leader if going and to arrange carpooling from Denver. Bring water, snacks, lunches, insect repellent and clothing for variable weather.

Thursday, July 10

Gregory Canyon-Boulder Area

Leader: Bob Shade, (303) 975-2476. Meet at 0730 in Boulder at Bobolink Trailhead, corner of Baseline Road and Cherryvale Road. (Exit Rte. 36 from Denver at Foothills Parkway. Go about 1 mile to Baseline Rd., turn right to Cherryvale Rd, about 1 mile.) We'll look for the Bobolinks, then carpool to Gregory Canyon since there is a parking fee there. Lunch optional.

Continued on next page

July Field Trips, continued

Saturday, July 12

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Bob Righter (303) 692-8529. Meet at 0800 at Beaver Meadows Visitors' Center, to carpool (east of Beaver Meadows entrance on US 36.) Full day of birding. Expect variable weather and wear hiking shoes. Bring lunch and National Parks Pass. Possibilities are Mountain Bluebirds, Golden Crowned Kinglets, Williamson's Sapsucker, Lincoln's Sparrows, plus we'll try for ptarmigan. Good birds and good fun with Bob!

Sunday, July 13

Golden Gate Canyon State Park

Leader: Paula Hansley. (720) 890-2628. Meet at 0730 at back parking lot of Foss' Drug Store in Golden, or at 0800 at the Park's Visitor Center. Be prepared for changeable weather and trail hiking, and bring lunch and water. State Parks Pass required. Hummingbirds, flycatchers, sapsuckers and other nesting species should be active with their offspring.

Saturday, July 19th

Lair O' the Bear Open Space Park

Leader: Ed Holub, (303) 979-2194. Meet at 0730 at Park's parking lot. Go 4 miles west of Morrison on CO 74 through Idledale to park entrance on left. Half-day trip. You might want to bring lunch - good picnic areas - (and probably no bears!)

Sunday, July 20

Upper White Ranch

Leader: Toni Rautus, (303) 422-7322. Meet leader at 0700 for carpooling at Highway 93 and Golden Gate Canyon Rd. intersection. Be ready for hiking and weather surprises. Bring lunch and water.

Wednesday, July 23

Filius Park and Mt. Evans (Echo and Summit Lakes)

Leader: Lynn Willcockson, (303) 757-7000. Meet at 0730 at Filius Park. Go west on I-70 to Evergreen exit, then to first Bergen Park turn off and go right to Filius Park. Full day of birding. Bring lunch, water, clothes for all kinds of weather. Golden Eagle or day pass needed. Pipits and rosy finches will be "target" birds. Should be less crowded than weekend mountain touring – we hope!

Saturday, July 26

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Bob Brown, (303) 791-6204. Meet at 0700 at the Marina for half-day trip. Go east from Yosemite on Union Avenue. Entrance gate is across from Cherry Creek High School. Parks Pass required. Lunch optional (picnic tables may be full!) Possible early shore bird migrants, but Bob will know what's around – there could be surprises. Beginners welcome.

Sunday, July 27

Genesee Mountain Park

Leader: Chishun Kwong, (720) 304-2073. Meet leader at 0700 at northwest corner of Park 'n Ride at Union and 6th Avenue. Half- day trip, lunch optional. Families of mountain birds will be active, and we'll also visit a yard teeming with hummingbirds, swallows, siskins and grosbeaks. You'll enjoy meeting this new leader and Joanna, his wife.

Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer and compiled by Cris Cook

Dear Lark Bunting,

I'm trying to establish a new birding community on the web at www.wordsaboutbirds.com - a place we can post our favorite bird photos, essays about favorite sites, a place we can post notices and sightings, a place to ask for help in identifying that bird we got such a good look at and still don't know what is. Could you - would you - look over the site and give me a plug in the Lark Bunting (which I love)? Thanks.

Jean Dubois

Birding Australia Part Two, continued

- * At Kakadu National Park, they found Black Bittern, Black-banded Fruit-Dove, Hooded Parrot, and Golden Bowerbird. In Tasmania, they went to Mount Wellington, Bruny Island, and Lunawanna Penguin Reserve. They found Musk Duck, Tasmanian Native Hen, Masked Lapwing, and Orange-bellied Parrot.



- * In Western Australia, they birded from Perth to Albany, took in a pelagic trip, enjoyed Two Peoples Bay, Porongurup National Park, Dryandra Forest Reserve, found Black-browed Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, White-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Red-winged Fairywren, and heard the ear-splitting call of Western Whipbird.

- * They covered Darwin in North Territory or Top End, enjoyed the sites of Mary River, Katherine River, and the Darwin Sewage Ponds (sewage and birding a true must anywhere), and found species like Rufous Owl, Rainbow Pitta, Little Curlew, and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove.

- * In Southern Queensland, they birded Brisbane and Lamington National Park and picked up Logrunner, Silver Gull, White-headed Pigeon, and a Regent Bowerbird at the bower.

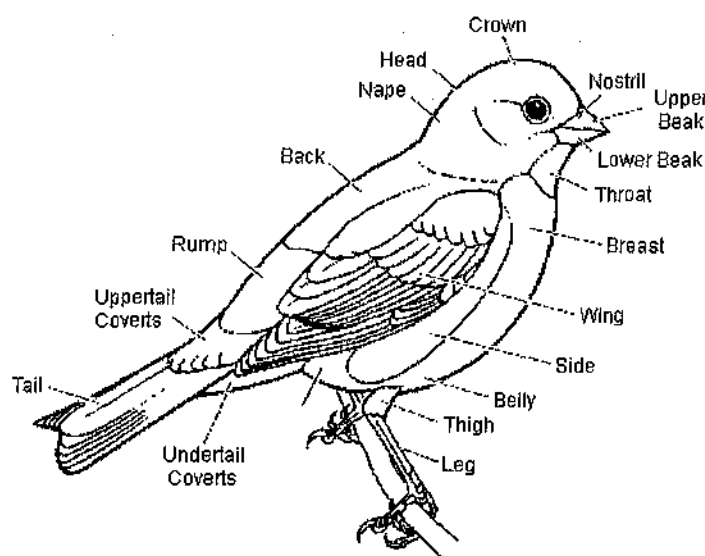
Norm Erthal has served the Colorado Birding community in several capacities by participating in the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, serving as President and Board member of the Denver Field Ornithologists, and by compiling and publishing the Colorado Rare Bird Alert for seven years. Norm has birded extensively throughout the United States including a trip to Attu, Nome, and Gambell. He has led trips to Costa Rica, Oaxaca Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Spain and the Canary Islands, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, and Alaska. Norm has recently retired from the Colorado Division of Wildlife after 30 years of service, but he looks forward to leading several bird watching trips around the world each year.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are now held on the 4th Monday of each month August to April (but excluding December). *The August 2008 date has been moved to AUGUST 18 so as not to conflict with the Democratic National Convention.*

*All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 am AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 pm.***

Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Birding 101: Using Field Marks to Identify Birds



In order to describe a bird, ornithologists divide its body into topographical regions: beak (or bill), head, back, wings, tail, and legs. To help with identification, many of these regions are divided still further. This diagram of **regions of the bird's body** shows some of the commonly used descriptive terms.

Birds display a huge variety of patterns and colors, which they have evolved in part to recognize other members of their own species. Birders can use these features - known as **field marks** - to help distinguish species.

http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/birding123/identify/field_marks

Convention Scholarships Available for Collegiate Birders

The American Birding Association (ABA), based in Colorado Springs, CO, is holding its annual convention this year just outside Salt Lake City in Snowbird, UT. The event will run June 23-29, 2008 and involves three days of field trips with professional leaders, two days of workshops and special presentations on bird-related topics, and outstanding speakers each evening. This year's Keynote Speaker is noted artist and author, Julie Zickefoose. Other speakers include Bill Schmoker, president of Colorado Field Ornithologists and avid bird photographer, Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding* magazine, and the Migratin' Raptors String Band of HawkWatch International. Award winners Kenn Kaufman, Bill Thompson III, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and local birder Bill Fenimore will receive recognition during the week as well.

The ABA has long been a proponent of youth education. The ABA's Young Birder program features regular events and activities aimed at expanding youth involvement and knowledge of the sport of birding. Through its Young Birder of the Year Contest, youth conferences, student newsletter (*A Bird's-eye View*), and scholarships, the ABA continues to bring opportunities for young birders to the forefront of the birding community.

With this in mind, the ABA is offering a limited number of \$650 scholarships to ABA birders age 18-23 towards attendance at the convention and participation in the birding events scheduled. The scholarship money is applicable towards the full convention package of activities, meals and lodging. This scholarship is designed to facilitate the introduction of the newest generation of ABA members to seasoned ABA members and encourage their connection with "birds of a feather". Any student birder can apply for the scholarships, and include a request for Student Membership with their application if not already a member. For more information on the convention, please see our website at www.aba.org. For details and availability of scholarships, please contact Brenda Gibb at 800.850.2473 x230. This limited offer will remain in effect until all scholarships are claimed.

Contact: Tamie Bulow, Conventions and Tours Manager, American Birding Association, 4945 N. 30th street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80919, (719) 578-9703 x233.

Demeter's Torch: The Two Worlds of Birding

It's a Sunday in mid-May. Wanting to confirm the breeding status of several avian friends, I've decided to explore a favorite riparian woodland in Jefferson County. The canopy boasts mature cottonwoods, tightly bunched around a modest stream. The understory is so tangled that I must walk up one side of the stream or the other; there is no crossing over.

Surrounding the drainage is a wide and rolling grassland, seeming incongruous on the periphery of Metropolitan Denver, yet offering the pleasant illusion of stretching well beyond the reach of the urban behemoth. Absent the meadow-larks, fluting from blossoms of rabbit-brush, and the sparrows, soloing from slender stalks of mullen, I could be drifting across an ocean—which, in a way, and allowing for the passage of millions of years, I am.

It's the birdsong that has drawn me here. A very attentive Vesper Sparrow has accompanied me across the grassland, flitting from one perch to another, staying just ahead of me and exploding with song the whole time, until he finally alights in a cottonwood at the edge of the riparian corridor. I suspect he has a nest somewhere out in the grass, and he has deliberately led me over to the creek, in hopes of distracting me.

Just behind the sparrow, and directly in front of me now is a plump, inviting wetland that has invaded a sluggish part of stream. It is perfect habitat for the Red-winged Blackbirds that dance above the cattails, males loudly squawking as they patrol, females sitting attentively, or hiding out of sight. To my right, downstream, two amorous robins chase each other, darting in and out of shrubbery below the cattails, pausing to flirt, then recommencing the chase. To my left, in the cottonwood canopy, I hear warblers and orioles. The memory of such gorgeous creatures invites me to walk upstream, to become hypnotized by seductive glimpses of yellow breasts and orange bellies. Downstream, flickers trumpet from on high, wrens reverberate lower down.

I remain riveted before the marsh. This small section of an insignificant stream has captivated me, enveloping my senses, drawing me into itself. My reluctant guide, the Vesper Sparrow, has now quietly disappeared.

After standing here a while, I notice two strange phenomena. The several habitats surrounding me begin to blur into each other and become one world. Simultaneously, a second world emerges, coextensive with the other, but summoned up by a psychic dimension of topography. The first world, a natural setting, includes the urgent, uncertain business of avian reproduction. The

second, mostly a creation of my mind, is full of sound and color, harmoniously composed of water and vegetation, enhanced by dry air and a comfortable temperature, made glorious by solitude and memorable by the sheer unlikeliness that such a place should have survived in a natural state.

The birds seem trapped in one universe, oblivious to mine, though as I watch them I realize how distant my world is from theirs. I can observe, but I cannot take part. No matter how much I desire to know it, or how I might imagine it, I cannot penetrate the reality of these other creatures' existence.

Chastened by this realization, I focus on a drama unfolding in front of me. Numerous red-wings patrol the cattails at center stage. Behind their noisy chatter, and their restless movement, I detect patterns of order. Males have set up territories, and females congregate around them, often several near one male. Under cover of the male's pyrotechnics, females quietly and cryptically go about nesting. Some are still exploring, but at least one has clearly found her spot: twice I have watched her disappear beside the same stalk, at least once with something in her beak. But I am not the only observer of this scene.

Enter the villain. A female cowbird has also been watching. I spotted her when I first stopped at the edge of the stream, while scanning around to identify the locals. For twenty minutes she has been sitting on the limb of a cottonwood on the opposite bank, some forty feet away, watching. I know she has seen the female blackbird plunge toward her nest. If there are eggs on that nest, Mrs. Cowbird will wait until Mrs. Blackbird runs an errand, then descend and quickly deposit her own egg in



Photo by Greg Gillson,
The Bird Guide, Inc. <http://thebirdguide.com>

Continued on next page

Demeter's Torch: Global Warming Part Two, continued

that nest. The result will be disaster for the blackbirds: cowbird chicks hatch first, are larger and more aggressive, and they destroy the blackbird eggs, or kill the chicks. And, tragically, the female blackbird abets this infanticide by nourishing the cowbird chick, apparently unable to distinguish it from her own doomed brood. I watch in rapt anticipation.

When the cowbird finally makes her move, she surprises me. She drops toward the cattails, but veers off to her right, away from the nest I've been watching, and out of sight behind a shrub. Before she has time to do any mischief, her consort appears, eager to mate. She rebuffs him, and both fly off.

Presently, a chilly breeze breaks the spell. For ninety minutes I have been traversing a kind of intergalactic space, between a familiar world and an exotic, alluring one. In thrall to the magic of winged dragons, I have put aside human concerns, have forgotten time, even lost self-consciousness, if only briefly. I'm enriched by an awareness of these temporary disabilities. I want to linger, to learn more, but inexorable gravity is dragging me back. I don't want to go home, but that's where I belong. I don't have a choice, for, every bit as much as the birds, I am trapped by the circumstances of my own world.

Note: The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is coming up for renewal, hopefully at a higher level of funding. You can help by urging your congresspersons to support it. Go to www.abcbirds.org/action for a simple online way of doing so.

©Mike Foster

mike1.foster@comcast.net

An Invitation to Our Birding Friends

Please help Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) celebrate its 20th anniversary during its annual picnic on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Old Stone House at Barr Lake State Park. Anyone interested in birds is invited to attend this event, highlighted by a keynote address, "Frontiers in Field Ornithology," delivered by popular speaker and ABA editor, Ted Floyd. The event also features morning bird walks, visits to RMBO's banding station, birding workshops, children's activities, live birds, a silent auction, and its famous BBQ lunch. Cost is \$10 RMBO members, \$12 non-members, children ages 17 and under free.

RMBO's banding station will be open from 7 to 9:30 in the morning and field trips led by RMBO birding experts will leave from the Stone House between 7 and 9 a.m.

Concurrent workshop sessions will begin at 10 and 11 a.m. Susie Mottashed, author of *Who Lives in Your Backyard? Creating a journal that opens your eyes and heart to nearby wonders*, will be presenting a workshop on field sketching birds. RMBO biologists Arvind Panjabi and Jason Beason will speak on "The Mexican Connection," and the "Yellow-billed Cuckoo" respectively; Mike Carter, RMBO's founder will talk about the beginnings of the organization, and Lynn Wickersham, coordinator of the project, will discuss the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Check the RMBO web site (www.rmbo.org) for further information.

May Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Wood Duck	5/26	1 f + 6 babies swimming	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Warren Finch
Kite, Mississippi	5/24	1	Crow Valley C/G	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Jeff Dunning, Rachel Hopper, Josh Bruening, many others.
Mountain Plover	5/29	2	Walks Camp Park Atlas bl.	Lincoln	H&U
Upland Sandpiper	5/26	2	Bijou Atlas Block	Elbert	Doug Kibbe
Whimbrel	5/14	1	Lower Latham Reservoir	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning
Phalarope, Red-necked	5/15	2 m, 1f	Beebe Draw	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Ira Sanders
Tern, Least	5/28	1	Walden Ponds	Boulder	Kathy Mihm Dunning, mob.
Dove, White-winged	5/4	1	Lake Hasty C/G	Bent	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Jeff Dunning
N. Saw-whet Owl	May 4-23	1	Franktown	Douglas	H&U
Common Poorwill	5/8	1, first	Franktown	Douglas	H&U
Pinyon Jay	May 2-15	up to 40	Franktown	Douglas	Pat Phagan
Thrush, Wood	5/4	1	Lake Hasty C/G	Bent	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Jeff Dunning, mob.
Thrush, Wood	5/9	1	Lake Hasty C/G	Bent	Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Vireo, Philadelphia	5/14	1	Crow Valley C/G	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning
Northern Parula	5/03, 5/04	1 f	Woods	Prowers	Roller, Dick Schottler
Warbler, Magnolia	5/22	1 f	Crow Valley C/G	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Don Beltz, mob.
Warbler, Blackpoll	5/14	1 m	Crow Valley C/G	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning, mob.
Warbler, Blackpoll	5/22	1 f	Crow Valley C/G	Weld	Kathy Mihm Dunning, mob.
Warbler, Kentucky	5/3	1 m	Neegronda Reservoir	Kiowa	Kathy Mihm Dunning, Jeff Dunning
Sparrow, Harris's	May 1-3	1	Franktown	Douglas	H&U
Sparrow, Harris's	5/18	1	Last Chance Rest Area	Washington	Kathy Mihm Dunning
Lazuli/indigo hybrid bunting	May 13-15	1	Franktown	Douglas	H&U
Bobolink	5/25	10	Cherry Valley Sch Atlas bl	Douglas	Denver Audubon
Evening Grosbeak	5/1	1	Perry Park	Douglas	Kay Chambers

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522



Welcome New Members!

- * Kathy Bollhoefer, 1150 Cook St Denver, Co 80206, 303-355-7569
- * John D (Dan) Brooke & Cheryl Teuton, 12659 E Villanova Dr , Aurora Co 80014, h 303-745-2346, c 303-912-3341
- * Bill & JoAnn Hackos, 597 County Rd 65, Evergreen, Co 80439, 303-670-8517
- * Christine Pacheco, 6055 Wadsworth Blvd Unit A, Arvada, Co 80003, 303-227-9900
- * Marleen Swalm, 7250 S Ivy Ct, Centennial, Co 80112, 303-694-9390
- * David W Walker, PO Box 934, Indian Hills, Co 80454, 303-697-3897

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Bill & JoAnn Hackos RBA, John D Brooke & Cheryl Teuton RBA and EEF, Kathy Bollhoefer RBA

Thank you!

Field Trip Summaries for May 2008

May 3, Saturday

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** J.D. Birchmeier, B.L. Brennan, Mary Lou Diamond, Diana Douglass, Mary Driscoll, Nelson Ford, Steve Kingswood, Matt Newport, Colleen Nunn, Bob Shade, Betsy Shaw, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Guy Ubaghs. **Time:** 0730-1400. **Distance:** 1.1 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Tree-lined lake, prairie. **Weather:** Sunny, cool, 25-55°F, southwest wind, 0-15mph. **Totals:** 63 species, 851 individuals.

May 4, Sunday

Pawnee National Grasslands and Crow Valley Campground (PAW)

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Bill Blackburn, Bob Beck, Ronda Bowling, Becky Campbell, Susan Carr, Mary Eleanor Cockerhan, Warren Finch, Jo-Dee Gentile, Nancy Hawkins, Tina Jones, Mary and Chuck Metzger, Bob Montgomery, Tom Pardiman, Polleke Siraa, Kathryn Spence, Marleen and Spencer Swalm. **Time:** 0600-1700. **Distance:** 150 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Prairie grasslands, ponds, lakes, elevation 4900'. **Weather:** Clear, 35-70°F, variable wind, 0-18mph. **Totals:** 80 species, 1014 individuals.

May 16-18, Fri-Sun

Bonnie State Park (BON)

Leader(s): Bob Righter. **Observers:** Kathy Bollhoefer, Diana Douglas, Jeff Dunning, Kathy Dunning, Lisa Dunning, Mary Keithler, Charles Lowrie, Jade and Joan Whiting. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Grasslands, aquatic, riparian, elevation 3800'. **Weather:** Clear, 40-88°F, north wind, 0-25mph. **Totals:** 112 species, 1490 individuals.

May 17, Saturday

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

Leader(s): Steve Kennedy. **Observers:** Sue Crisfield, Theresa Damian, Paul Denholm, Dave Driscoll, Mary Driscoll, Gail Evans, Lyn Graves, Pauline Ide, Sharon Kay, Lisa Lubin, Colleen Nunn, Kay Senechal. **Time:** 0700-1500. **Distance:** 18 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Plains and riparian, water, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Clear, 50-75°F, north-northeast wind, 5-15mph. **Totals:** 80 species, 815 individuals.

May 18, Sunday

Roxborough State Park (ROX)

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** Dave Broste, Carol Flynn, Clint Flynn, Judy Hinton, Jill Holden, Greg Lengsfeld, Margie Mills, Lindsey Mills, Debbie Seiden, Bernadette Sonefeld, Melissa Smith, Bobbi Vollmer, Pixie Westfell, Diana Wilson. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 6 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Scrub oak, foothills, open meadows. **Weather:** Clear, 52-75°F, west-southwest wind, 5-10mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 193 individuals.

May 24, Saturday

Rigli Ranch (RIG)

Leader(s): Joe Rigli. **Observers:** Joe Bartell, Gail Evans, Pauline Ide, Mary Metzger, Sue Schulman, Peter Walker. **Time:** 0900-1530. **Distance:** 6 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Sandhill-sage brush, short-grass prairie, fields, riparian woodlands, elevation 4300'. **Weather:** AM clear, PM cloudy, warm, sunny, 61-81°F, southeast wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 60 species, 118 individuals (*not all shown on Excel chart*).

Highlights: A spectacular day, probably the best spring field trip that I've led in a long time as many very interesting and uncommon bird species were observed and recorded including eight white-faced ibis, a male Wilson's phalarope and female red-necked phalarope feeding together on a prairie pond, an olive-sided flycatcher, one cordilleran flycatcher, a willow flycatcher, two blue-gray gnatcatchers which are very rare in this area, and more.

May 25, Sunday

Wheat Ridge Green Belt (WHE)

Leader(s): Patty Echelmeyer. **Observers:** Susan Crisfield, Jean Davis, Paul Denholm, Mary Driscoll, Leslie Gerard, Pauline Ide, Mary and Chuck Metzger, Margie Mills, Chris Pachero, Mary Ann Rose, Richard Sheppard, Sandy Starrett. **Time:** 0730-1100. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Clear, no precipitation, few clouds, 45-68°F, no wind. **Totals:** 34 species, 369 individuals. **Highlights:** Canada geese were fun posing with their goslings and guardian fathers. The Cooper's Hawk stayed in plain sight for a long time. Saw first orioles and tanagers for the year. Warbling vireos and yellow warblers were especially vocal. Three foxes trotted through the trails.

Field Trip Summaries for May 2008, continued

May 26, Monday *South Platte Trail and 88th (SOU)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Dave and Mary Driscoll, Alison Kondler, Mary Ann Rose. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Very cool and cloudy, 58-63°F, northwest wind, 3-5mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 679 individuals.

Highlights: Swallows were all over the place building lots of nests, getting mud near the river and bike path. Watched a mourning dove build her nest and several of the robins were carrying building materials.

Tuesday Birders

May 6 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and Backyard Feeder (PRO)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 49 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, 62-70°F, south wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 51 species, 410 individuals.

May 13 - Cancelled due to inclement weather.

May 20 *Lair o' the Bear (LAI)*

Leader(s): Darlene Cate and Judy Miller. **Observers:** 35 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 4.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, transitional zone with juniper and ponderosa pine, shrubland, elevation 5700-6600'. **Weather:** Mostly clear, 62-83°F, west wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 187 individuals.

May 27 - Cancelled due to inclement weather.

Audubon Advisory

Preventing Bird Collisions with Cell Towers

A federal Court of Appeals recently ruled that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act when it approved applications for communications towers in the Gulf Coast region. As the court ruled, **the FCC must consider the environmental impacts of its actions that may have a significant impact on the human environment.** Definitive evidence of harm is not required, nor is scientific consensus on the data. To challenge a proposed tower, a petitioner need only submit some reliable evidence showing possible significant environmental impacts. The court ordered the FCC to re-write its rules that will apply to all future towers. The FCC is conducting a rulemaking to consider future rule changes, but that may take years to complete. In the meantime, opponents of proposed towers should monitor the FCC's website for tower applications and demand notice and a sufficient opportunity to comment before the FCC makes its decision on the tower.

Audubon Sounds Alarm on Declining Bird Populations

Last year, Audubon released its State of the Birds report, a thorough, science-based analysis revealing that populations of some of America's most familiar and beloved birds, like Eastern Meadowlarks and Rufous Hummingbirds, have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, with some down as much as 80 percent. Audubon's public policy office is making clear that **this disturbing decline in common birds is a call to action** to reduce and eliminate threats to habitat. Congress is starting to take notice. On July 10, the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans will hold a hearing on declining bird populations. Key members of Congress are in discussions with Audubon policy experts and scientists regarding legislation that would address the root causes of the bird declines. Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to help save America's declining birds! »*Get more information:* Find out more and download the report at our [Common Birds in Decline](#) site.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler
and Alison Hilt.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st. If you would prefer to have the Lark Bunting emailed to you, please include your email address.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
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One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
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Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
--	-----

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$___
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With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org) Web Site

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$___
--	-------

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting

E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE July 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS										TUESDAY BIRDERS					TOTAL
	4-6 NOR	10 GRE	12 ROC	13 GOL	19 LAI	20 UPP	23 FIL	27 CHE	28 GEN	1 REY	8 STA	15 EVE	22 LAI	28 FLY		
Pied-billed Grebe	10														10	
Eared Grebe	78														78	
Western Grebe	69							2							71	
American White Pelican	130							45							175	
Double-crested Cormorant	36			1				9				10			56	
Great Blue Heron	3							2							5	
Snowy Egret								6							6	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	11							2							13	
Turkey Vulture		5	2				1	3			1				12	
Greater White-fronted Goose	1														1	
Canada Goose	100	8						28				10			146	
Gadwall	20														20	
American Wigeon	10														10	
Mallard	10							31				20			61	
Blue-winged Teal	10							3							13	
Cinnamon Teal	6														6	
Northern Shoveler	20														20	
Northern Pintail	2														2	
Green-winged Teal	4														4	
Canvasback	4														4	
Redhead	20														20	
Ring-necked Duck	10														10	
Lesser Scaup	30														30	
Common Merganser	12														12	
Red-breasted Merganser	2														2	
Ruddy Duck	20														20	
Osprey	1														1	
Bald Eagle	2														2	
Northern Harrier	4														4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1											1	
Cooper's Hawk					1					1			1		3	
Northern Goshawk										3					3	
Swainson's Hawk	3							3							6	
Red-tailed Hawk	10				2	1		2		2			2		19	
Rough-legged Hawk															0	
Buteo sp.	2														2	
Golden Eagle	2														2	
American Kestrel	2						1	1							4	
Prairie Falcon		1													1	
Virginia Rail								3							3	
Sora	3							6							9	
American Coot	100							1							101	
Killdeer	20							7							27	
American Avocet	10							2							12	
Lesser Yellowlegs	4														4	
Solitary Sandpiper								1							1	
Willet	2														2	
Spotted Sandpiper	1			1				3							5	
Long-billed Dowitcher															0	
Wilson's Snipe	20							7							27	
Wilson's Phalarope	5														5	
Red-necked Phalarope															0	
Franklin's Gull	1														1	
Ring-billed Gull	1							8							9	
California Gull	20							2							22	
Ivory Gull															0	
Forster's Tern	2														2	
Rock Pigeon	1									1					2	
Mourning Dove	3	2			1	4	2	32			1	2	1		48	
Short-eared Owl	1														1	
Common Nighthawk	4														4	
Calliope Hummingbird							3								3	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	10	5		5	15	7	54	1		8	38	13	13	10	179	

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE July 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS					TOTAL
	4-8	10	12	13	18	20	23	27	28	1	8	15	22	29	
LOCATION	NOR	GRE	ROC	GOL	LAI	UPP	FIL	CHE	GEN	REY	STA	EVE	LAI	FLY	
Rufous Hummingbird	1			1			3				1				6
Belted Kingfisher								2				1			3
Williamson's Sapsucker			3									1			4
Red-naped Sapsucker	1		3	2								2			8
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	1		1								2		6
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1	3			1			2	2	1		3	15
"Rocky Mountain" race		1													(1)
Northern Flicker	3	2	6	3		2	2	9				2		3	32
"Red-shafted" race		(2)					(2)	(9)							(13)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1														1
Western Wood-Pewee	4	1	2	1	4	25	3	4		1			7	4	56
Willow Flycatcher	1														1
Least Flycatcher															0
Hammond's Flycatcher			1	1											2
Dusky Flycatcher		3	1	1			1								6
Cordilleran Flycatcher		6		2	3	12	4			7	5	3	6		50
Buff-breasted Flycatcher															0
Empidonax sp.	1														1
Western Kingbird								14							14
Plumbeous Vireo			1			6	1			2	2				14
Warbling Vireo	1	6	20	10		12				12	2	4	3		70
Gray Jay	1														1
Steller's Jay	1	4		1		5	2			3		3		1	20
Blue Jay		1													1
Clark's Nutcracker							3								3
Black-billed Magpie	13		8					11							32
American Crow	10	2	1				3			15	4	2		6	43
Common Raven		1	3				6				3	1		2	16
Horned Lark	5		6				1								12
Tree Swallow	11		4	3	6	6					1	10		6	47
Violet-green Swallow	10	2	12	1	4		8				5	1	2	6	51
Northern Rough-winged Swallow					3								2		5
Cliff Swallow	100	4					2	11							117
Barn Swallow	2	10	2					40				4			58
Black-capped Chickadee		7	1		4	3		1					12	4	32
Mountain Chickadee	1	9	4	3		1	5			5	6	12		4	60
Red-breasted Nuthatch		2		2		2						3			9
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1				3	1				4			4	14
Pygmy Nuthatch			12			5	7				1			20	45
Brown Creeper											1			1	2
Rock Wren	1	1													2
House Wren	1	1	6	3	6	15	1	6		11	4	1	4	3	62
Marsh Wren	1							1							2
American Dipper													3		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		4	2						1	3	2			14
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher								1							1
Western Bluebird			1				6				11				18
Mountain Bluebird	5		6	1	2	12	1						2	3	32
Townsend's Solitaire							1					1			2
Hermit Thrush							3			2	5	2			12
American Robin	20	5	10	4	4	5	1	6		7	2	10	15	5	94
Gray Catbird	1	1			2								4		8
Sage Thrasher	10														10
European Starling		10						8							18
American Pipit	1		6				21								28
Cedar Waxwing					9								6		15
Virginia's Warbler		1			2										3
Yellow Warbler	20	2			12			8					16		58
Yellow-rumped Warbler		2	1	2			2								7
"Audubon's" race		2		(2)			2								(6)
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	4				2				4	2				13
Common Yellowthroat								3							3
Wilson's Warbler	1														1
Yellow-breasted Chat		1													

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE July 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS										TUESDAY BIRDERS					TOTAL
	4-6	10	12	13	19	20	23	27	28		1	8	16	22	28	
DATE																
LOCATION	NOR	GRE	ROC	GOL	LAI	UPP	FIL	CHE	GEN		REY	STA	EVE	LAI	FLY	
Western Tanager	1	5				2	2				2			4	1	17
Green-tailed Towhee			4		2		2				3			1		12
Spotted Towhee		15			5	1								6		27
Chipping Sparrow	1	10	10		1	25	2	1			1	4			39	94
Brewer's Sparrow	6															6
Vesper Sparrow	1	2														3
Lark Sparrow															6	6
Savannah Sparrow	23		3													26
Fox Sparrow				1												1
Song Sparrow	14	1		2	3	2		3					5	9		39
Lincoln's Sparrow	5		5	3									1			15
White-crowned Sparrow	10		2				2									14
Dark-eyed Junco		4	4	3		1	3				1	1	5		6	28
"Gray-headed" race		(4)	(4)	3		1	3								6	(21)
Black-headed Grosbeak		1		1	1		2				1	3	2	6		17
Blue Grosbeak		1														1
Lazuli Bunting		1			4	3					1			2		11
Indigo/Lazuli Bunting hybrid														1		1
Bobolink		10														10
Red-winged Blackbird	20	20	2	3				31					40			116
Western Meadowlark	2							4								6
Yellow-headed Blackbird	30							2								32
Brewer's Blackbird	6															6
Common Grackle	10	5						28								43
Brown-headed Cowbird	30	2		2				2				3				39
Bullock's Oriole		1						7								8
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch							3									3
Cassin's Finch	6						1					1				8
House Finch	1	3	2	2	1		3	21				8		14	1	56
Red Crossbill		2	6	1			5						6		5	25
Pine Siskin	5	3	10	8		6	9				2	4	6		11	84
Lesser Goldfinch		1			15	2					1			22		41
"Green-backed" race														1		(1)
"Black-backed" race		1												3		(4)
American Goldfinch	1	2		1		2		25						5		35
House Sparrow	3	5														8
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1261	209	177	81	113	174	184	459	0		99	128	186	173	154	3,395
TOTAL SPECIES	100	63	38	34	25	28	41	50	0		28	29	32	28	24	149
OBSERVATION LEGEND:	a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, +=also/in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated															

NOR - North Park

GRE - Gregory Canyon, Boulder County

ROC - Rocky Mountain National Park

GOL - Golden Gate Canyon State Park

LAI - Lair O' the Bear Open Space Park

UPP - Upper White Ranch

FIL - Fillue Park and Mt Evans, Echo and Summit Lakes

CHE - Cherry Creek State Park

GEN - Genesee Mountain Park

REY - Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space

STA - Stapleton Park - Selby's Feeder, Brañle Trail, Genesee Mtn Park

EVE - Evergreen Lake and Maxwell Falls

LAI - Lair O' the Bear Open Space Park

FLY - Flying J Ranch Open Space Park



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

August 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 8



August Field Trips

Saturday, August 2

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194. Meet leader at 8:15 at the Nature Center, east of Beaver Meadows entrance on US 36. This will be an all day trip so bring lunch and extra water. Trip will probably finish about 3:15 or 3:30. The entrance fee is \$20 per car so carpooling is encouraged.

Sunday, August 3

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431. Meet leader at 7:30 at the East Gate. State Parks Pass required. This will be a half day trip; bring extra water but lunch is optional.

Saturday, August 9

Wheat Ridge Green Belt

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet at 7:30 at Prospect Park Lake near the permanent restrooms, south of West 44th Ave. just east of Robb St. This is an excellent area to see warblers as well as shore and water birds. This will be a half day trip so bringing lunch is optional. Leader is using a scooter for mobility so this trip is accessible and will involve easy walking only.

Sunday, August 10

Pine/Bailey

Leader: Chris Blakeslee, 303-694-4670. Meet leader south of the Conoco Station on Dartmouth and Sheridan at 0720 or you can meet the group at 0800 at Pine Junction County Store. Bring lunch and drinking water for a fun day chasing birds of all kinds.

Saturday, August 16

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Buzz Schaumburg, 303-699-1721. Meet leader at 07:30 at the Nature Center inside the park. From Denver, take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, Exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Road, then turn south for approx. 2 miles to park entrance. This will be a half day trip so lunch is optional but do bring extra water and bug spray. This will involve walking on mostly flat surfaces many of which are paved.

Sunday, August 17

South Mesa Trail to Shadow Canyon

Leader: Peggy Gonder, 303-321-3465. Meet leader at 07:00 at the South Mesa Trail parking area on Eldorado Springs Drive, 2 miles west of State Hwy. 93. Bring lunch, lots of drinking water and good hiking shoes for a moderate hike.

Saturday, August 23

Parker Regional Park and Castlewood Canyon

Leader: Sue Shulman, 303-773-3540. Meet leader at 07:30 at the Nature Center at Parker Regional Park. From Main St. intersection in Parker, go south on Parker Rd. (Co 83) for 1.2 miles. Turn right on Indian Pipe Lane to parking lot on right. Bring lunch and plenty of drinking water. After looking for fall migrants, group will go to

Continued on next page

August Field Trips, continued

Castlewood Canyon to check out what is there.

Sunday, August 24

Roxborough State Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 1700(5 pm) at Roxborough Visitor Center. To reach the park, take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd. on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This trip will hike up into the foothills on a path which has a moderate gain. Trip will end around 1900 so bring plenty of water. The Park is open until 9 pm so restrooms and water are available. You can bring something to eat and sit on the patio to watch the deer come out and enjoy the cool of the evening. There are nesting golden eagles that should be viewable. This is a good trip for novice birders and new members. State Parks pass required.

Thursday, August 28

Belmar Historic Park

Leader: Bob Shade, 303-975-2476. Meet leader at 0730 at the Belmar Historic Park, 800 South Wadsworth Blvd at West Ohio Ave. Turn west on Ohio Ave. and go two blocks straight ahead into Irongate parking lot and to the lake. Trip will end before noon so lunch is optional. This trip will be an easy hike on wheelchair accessible trails. Bring binoculars and field guide. Trip participants should get good looks at snowy egrets. This is a good trip for novice birders and new members.

Saturday thru Monday August 30-Sept. 1

Crescent Lake Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet leader at 0730 on Saturday, August 30 at Jim Hamm Park. From I-25 take Exit 240. To reach the park, go west four miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld County Line Road, then north two miles to Jim Hamm Park at 17th Ave. This trip will explore the prairie pot hole area in Nebraska and should see lots of shorebirds. Will stay in motels and eat dinner at restaurants. Bring breakfasts and lunches for all three days. Trip will end September 1 in the late afternoon or early evening. Call the leader if going as carpools need to be arranged as well as motel arrangements need to be made.

Saturday, August 30

Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, August 31

Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet leader at 0530 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 No. Broadway -- Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Habitat Stamp for State Wildlife Areas and State Parks Pass required. This is an all day trip so bring lunch and plenty of water. Be sure to bring insect repellent and sunscreen. Call leader if going.

Scheduled by Jackie King and compiled by Cris Cook

Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas: Updated and Initial Data

Monday, September 22 DFO Feature Meeting

Lynn Wickersham, the Project Manager for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, will provide the DFO a quick update on the project and share the initial results and analysis. She will specifically address the following.

Brief Update

- Project Background, Purpose and Methods
- Regions and Regional Coordinators

Initial Data and Analysis

- Results after Year 2 (2007-08)
- Highlights of Volunteer Efforts (Photos, Interesting Observations)
- Discussion of Noticeable Trends for Colorado's Breeding Birds

Lynn will let us know how we can get involved with this important project. With 12 years of experience as an avian ecologist, with a particular expertise in population ecology of passerine birds, Lynn is the statewide Project Manager for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project (COBBA II), working under a grant facilitated by the San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources at Fort Lewis College. She is also the co-principal, with her husband John, of Animas Biological Studies (ABS), in Durango, Colorado, an organization conducting avian research and monitoring in Colorado and New Mexico.

Lynn has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Biology from Arkansas State University. For her Master's degree research, Lynn directed a two-year project comparing nesting success of early successional passerine birds in regenerating forests subjected to two silvicultural treatments and evaluated postfledging survival and habitat use of yellow-breasted chats (*Icteria virens*).

Prior to taking on COBBA II and ABS, Lynn worked for five years as an environmental consultant for Ecosphere Environmental Services in Durango where she served as lead biologist and project manager for a variety of avian research and monitoring projects in Colorado and New Mexico. Prior to working as an environmental consultant, Lynn spent one year as the songbird monitoring coordinator for Hawks Aloft, Inc., located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She continues her work with gray vireos in New Mexico, examining nesting success and nest site selection, site fidelity, and survival at Kirtland Air Force Base. She also assists her husband with regional raptor nest monitoring in northwestern New Mexico.

All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. DOORS OPEN BY 7.00pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7.30pm. Mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7.15pm. Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Quick Reminder: On August 18 (a third Monday change due to the Democratic National Convention activities), please come to the DFO meeting to hear Norm Erthal address Birding in Australia (Part II). Norm Erthal began presenting his birding experiences and photographs from Australia at the January 2008 meeting, but simply needed more time. The enthusiastic group of over 100 persons demanded he come back and finish up. So at the DFO meeting on Monday, August 18, 2008 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, expect more interesting dialogue, lots of great bird pictures and a view of many of the birding sites around this continent. Future Dates and Speakers: Mark your calendar now for the following fourth Mondays of the month. Kevin Cook, a local Fort Collins nature writer and travel leader, will put forth some new perspectives on listing and enjoying wildlife watching and the wild on October 27, 2008. On November 24, the engaging world bird watcher, John Drummond, will present his photos and knowledge of birding in Venezuela. On January 26, 2009, Dr. Hugh McIsaac from the University of Denver will share from his research on bird navigation. Dr. John Demboski, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will share some of his special knowledge about the bird skins collection at the Museum on February 23, 2009. A few more special speakers will round out the Spring 2009 schedule.

Note: We do not have a December 2008 meeting.

Birding 101: Striking a Pose

Posture clues can help place a bird in its correct group. Watch an American Robin, a common member of the thrush family, strut across a yard. Notice how it takes several steps, then adopts an alert, upright stance with its breast held forward. Other thrushes have similar postures, as do larks and shorebirds.



Horizontal Posture: Vireo



American Robin



Vertical Posture: Flycatcher

Other birds perch horizontally on vegetation with tails pointing out at an angle, for instance vireos, shrikes, crows, and warblers.

Certain bird groups have distinctive vertical posture when perched on a branch. Flycatchers, hawks, and owls typically sit in an upright pose with tails pointing straight down.

http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/birding123/identify/field_marks

Missing Your Detailed List of Birds from DFO Field Trips?

Have no worries, these trip reports are available for your review on the World Wide Web at www.dfobirders.org (notice the "s" as in plural) for FREE. You can print the reports from here if you so desire. The web can be accessed for many of you at home and public access to the web is available for free at most Colorado public libraries. They are updated monthly thanks to the volunteer help of Deb Bogar and Veronica Holt.

The DFO Board encourages everyone to use the more earth friendly method of viewing these reports on-line. We do recognize some of you (who desire to read these bird list reports) do not have ready access to the internet so we have made the paper versions available for you at our costs.

Paper copies can also be mailed to you at the cost of \$10 per year. This cost includes 43 cents postage on 12 envelopes (or \$5.06). In addition, copying costs run about 30 cents to 40 cents per month. Throw in a few envelopes and labels, and the DFO is glad to provide you this service at our cost of about \$10 per year. Also, provide a big thanks to Carol Blackard who is volunteering to prepare these mailings. **ALSO NOTE, THAT FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2008, WE ARE ONLY ASKING FOR A \$5.00 PAYMENT FOR THE REMAINING HALF OF THE YEAR FOR THESE BIRD LISTS.**

Also, please understand that at times some trip leaders (including the writer of this article) are sometimes a wee bit late with getting information to Deb. So be please be patient if the information is delayed.

If you want a paper copy of the bird lists from the trip reports and want to pay the \$10 extra per year (starting in 2009), please indicate so on the attached form in this issue of the Lark Bunting. Only include \$5.00 for the last half of 2008. Please mail this form and payment to Mary Burger at 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742.

Demeter's Torch: How Much is Enough?

All species continually evolve, spreading and contracting in range, increasing and shrinking in abundance, assuming new traits and shedding others. All this happens so slowly that we tend to take it for granted, if we are even aware of it, so that the causes of one species flourishing and another languishing are sufficiently complex that most of us ignore them.

Left to itself, nature tends, over time, to balance out the ups and downs that alternately impel and imperil all creatures and natural systems. But, due to the nearly ubiquitous footprint of humankind, nature is no longer left to itself. And, due to our nearly universal arrogance regarding nature, and our ignorance of natural processes, our impacts are nearly always harmful. Our craving for material growth is eroding the natural systems which sustain life itself. Such an astonishing irony should be intolerable to intelligent beings.

The one process ongoing . . . that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us.

Edward O. Wilson

But, as I have implied more than once in this column, intelligence and appetite are often good buddies. We manufacture, circulate, and consume an enormous variety of stuff, way more than we need, much of it designed for one-time use. The result is that in the United States alone we generate 210 million tons of trash annually. Only some 27% of that is recycled. The rest winds up in landfills: except for food scraps and yard waste, the rest (paper, wood products, plastics, metals, glass, rubber & leather) could be recycled, but isn't, which reflects the unsustainable throwaway mentality symptomatic in the developed world.

*We who prayed and wept for liberty from kings
and the yoke of liberty accept the tyranny of things.*

Wendell Berry

Two pathologies seem to accompany increasing consumption. First, the distinction between genuine needs and frivolous wants becomes blurred: what one wants becomes a need.

*Confirm thy soul in self-control.
America the Beautiful*

Second, the more one accumulates, the more one becomes possessive, hungry for more, and insecure about

keeping what one has—the results being apparent in the disparity of wealth among individuals and between nations.

Excess of wealth is cause of covetousness.
Christopher Marlowe

The more we get, the less we seem to care about other people, other creatures, or the public good.

Selfishness is the greatest curse of the human race.
William Gladstone

Contrast this cruel narrowness with the confident inclusiveness of the Enlightenment, when European and American leaders (among them, our Founding Fathers) crafted the first global perspective on mankind. Its aim was to improve the lot of humanity by employing more reason and less authority.

Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppression of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day.
Thomas Jefferson

Our own Benjamin Franklin epitomized the versatility of these leaders, whose watchword was public service. We mostly remember Franklin as a statesman, a diplomat, a shrewd politician, a prolific essayist—and a lady's man. But he was so much more. Franklin became rich as an entrepreneurial printer, but he generously shared his business acumen with scores of others. He organized an insurance company, a hospital, a library, a university, and Pennsylvania's first effective militia.

*No personal considerations should stand in the way
of performing a public duty.*
Ulysses S. Grant

Idealistic yet practical, Franklin and his colleagues remind us that the health and prosperity of a nation are measured by the willingness of its citizens to contribute to the common good.

*Ask not what your country can do for you,
but what can you do for your country?*
John F. Kennedy

Now we must learn to think beyond the narrow confines of our own countries. We must rediscover the wider world, and our place in it.

*Our task must be to free ourselves . . . by widening
our circle of compassion to embrace all living*

Continued on next page



Demeter's Torch: How Much is Enough, continued

creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.

Albert Einstein

Not such a difficult task, really, once we acknowledge (or remember) that we humans share genetic material with all living creatures; that even inanimate matter boasts many of the same atoms and particles as ourselves, and are subject to the same laws of physics and chemistry.

We are Nature, long have we been absent, but now we return.

Walt Whitman

It is a remembering we need, not a brainwashing or a cultural reprogramming. The ancients knew most of what we now need to know about humankind, its problems and possibilities, its mores and its morals, its exultations and its execrable deeds. The ancients (and the many generations following—ourselves excepted) learned the flimsiness of individual power, the strength of cooperation, the immensity of appetite, the dangers of excess, and the wisdom of sufficiency.

Enough is as good as a feast.

Book of Proverbs

May the remembering begin.

Postscript: I thank the many readers who sent comments on my *Two Worlds of Birding* essay. It was undoubtedly more fun to read than some of the others. It was also more fun to write, but birds and birding are apt reminders that we need to take those other issues seriously, lest we allow threats to the natural world to go unchallenged.

©Mike Foster

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Nota Bene



From Norm Erthal:

I will lead a trip to Panama on January 22 to February 9 that will include Darien National Park, Cerro Gaital, the Canal Zone, and the Serrania de San Blas. The Darien is one of the most magnificent and remote wild areas on the planet with 30 species either endemic to the Darien or only possible here or in adjacent Colombia. We will spend four of the nine days there on a hike to a camp on the slopes of Cerro Pirre with a hike to the summit. Included also is a three day excursion to a native village on the coast best accessible by boat where we will hike to a known nesting site for Harpy Eagle, the largest raptor in the Americas. The difficulty is moderate to difficult.

I have changed the Panama trip somewhat. I decided to shorten it and concentrate on eastern Panama. Previously, I was trying to fit in one location in western Panama and making too short of a visit to the Canal Zone. I have dropped these and lengthened the Nusagandi Reserve visit as well as a stop at Cerro Azul. The trip length is 16 days instead of 18. I will do a future trip to western Panama and the Canal Zone, covering it more completely and include Chiriqui Province. The cost is now about \$4400. Please contact me for more details at nerthal@comcast.net.

June Additional Reports

Species	Dates	Nr seen	Location	County	Observers & notes
Sandpiper, solitary	6/29	1- early fall migrant?	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Joey Kellner
Owl, Long-eared	6/4	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Kingbird, Cassin's	6/17	1	Kiowa NE atlas block	Elbert	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Kingbird, Cassin's	6/17	2, on nest with eggs	Bijou Atlas block	Elbert	Hugh & Urling Kingery, Ron Beane
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6/17	5	Bijou Atlas block	Elbert	Hugh & Urling Kingery, Ron Beane
Ovenbird	6/2	19, singing	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Ovenbird	6/10,24	2, singing	Deer Creek Canyon Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Bunting, Indigo	6/19	2	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Bunting, Lazuli/Indigo	6/15	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Bunting, Lazuli/Indigo	6/1,14,25	1	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Sparrow, cassin's	6/13	2, singing	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Joey Kellner
Sparrow, grasshopper	6/13	6, singing	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Joey Kellner
Oriole, Orchard	6/4	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522



An Invitation to Our Birding Friends

Please help Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) celebrate its 20th anniversary during its annual picnic on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Old Stone House at Barr Lake State Park. Anyone interested in birds is invited to attend this event, highlighted by a keynote address, "Frontiers in Field Ornithology," delivered by popular speaker and ABA editor, Ted Floyd. The event also features morning bird walks, visits to RMBO's banding station, birding workshops, children's activities, live birds, a silent auction, and its famous BBQ lunch. Cost is \$10 RMBO members, \$12 non-members, children ages 17 and under free.

RMBO's banding station will be open from 7 to 9:30 in the morning and field trips led by RMBO birding experts will leave from the Stone House between 7 and 9 a.m.

Concurrent workshop sessions will begin at 10 and 11 a.m. Susie Mottashed, author of *Who Lives in Your Backyard? Creating a journal that opens your eyes and heart to nearby wonders*, will be presenting a workshop on field sketching birds. RMBO biologists Arvind Panjabi and Jason Beason will speak on "The Mexican Connection," and the "Yellow-billed Cuckoo" respectively; Mike Carter, RMBO's founder will talk about the beginnings of the organization, and Lynn Wickersham, coordinator of the project, will discuss the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II.

Check the RMBO web site (www.rmbo.org) for further information.



June 2008 Field Trip Summaries

June 1, Sunday *Northeastern Colorado – Tamarac Ranch and Jumbo Reservoir (NOR)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** John Breitsch, Warren Finch, Randy Lentz, Roger Linfield, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Dick Schottler, Pamela Tarrall. **Time:** 0530-1800. **Distance:** 372 miles by car, 2¼ miles on foot. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 58-86°F, southeast wind, 5-12mph. **Totals:** 89 species, 882 individuals.

June 7, Saturday *Willow Springs Open Space, Jefferson County - Foothills Songbirds (WIL)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Joe Bartell, Derek Hankins, Peggy Hankins, Kent Kreider, Liz Kreider. **Time:** 0715-1400. **Distance:** 1 mile by car, 5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountane shrubland, gambel oak, mixed conifer forest (mostly douglas fir), elevation 6000-7200'. **Weather:** Clear and sunny, 50-70°F. **Totals:** 42 species, 244 individuals.

Highlights: We saw and had good looks at our target birds (ovenbird, macgillivray's warbler, virginia's warbler, plumbeous vireo, warbling vireo) on both days, as well as hammond's and cordilleran flycatchers. Also had ruby-crowned kinglets singing. Heard 11 singing ovenbirds. Saw a male yellow-rumped warbler act aggressively as he interacted with a warbling vireo on and around the vireo's nest, which was located in a small aspen.

June 8, Sunday *Willow Springs Open Space - More Foothills Songbirds (WIL2)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Don and Susan Clasen, Chuck and Mary Metzger, Polleke Siraa, Kathleen Sullivan. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 1 mile by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountane shrubland, gambel oak, mixed conifer (mostly douglas fir) forest, elevation 6000-7200'. **Weather:** Clear and sunny after rain and clouds first two hours, 45-70°F. **Totals:** 36 species, 172 individuals.

Highlights: It was raining early, so we started late and didn't travel as far as on Saturday. Saw a warbling vireo sitting on its nest. Watched two gray-headed junco's lead us to a nest on the ground on a sloped hillside.

June 14, Saturday *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Trip report not available at time of printing.

June 15, Sunday *Lyons Area (LYO)*

Leader(s): Raymond Davis. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Maggie Boswell, Patty Echelmeyer, Barbara Hoover, Elena Klaver, Chuck Lowrie, Chuck and Mary Metzger, Irene Rivas, Fi Rust, Betsy Shaw, Tim Smart, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Jen and Joe Yurkovic. **Distance:** 17 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian streamside at 5250' with sandstone canyons, quick spin out to fields just east of the foothills, then Davis house at 6000', open ponderosa woodlands. **Weather:** Warm, mild, low 80s°F. **Totals:** 46 species, 212 individuals.

June 21, Saturday *Bailey Nesting Area, Blue River Campground - Summit County (SUM)*

Leader(s): Norm Lewis. **Observers:** Jean Alden, John Alden, Meredith Anderson, Joe Bartell, Bob Bucknam, Graeme Charles, David Charles, Jim Duggan, Lyn Graves, Walt Knudsen, Linda Knudsen, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, Sue Schulman, Paul Slingsby, Tim Smart Steve Smith, Kathryn Smith, Peter Spanberger. **Distance:** 138 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Totals:** 43 species, 134 individuals.

June 22, Sunday *Lair o' the Bear (LAI)*

Leader(s): Nina Routh. **Observers:** Warren Finch, Jim Duggan, Lyn Graves, Matt Newport, Neil Montague, Toni Rautus, Betsy Shaw, Paul Slingsby, Tim Smart, Sandy Starret, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Marleen Swaim. **Time:** 0730-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, foothills, coniferous, elevation 7800'. **Weather:** Partly sunny to overcast, 65-75°F, gentle breeze, west to east. **Totals:** 38 species, 262 individuals.

Highlights: Very 'birdy' at Lair with everyone singing – warbling vireos, yellow warblers, wrens, black-headed grosbeaks, catbirds, hummers and many more. The Cooper's Hawks that have always nested in the woods across the lower bridge have moved to an unknown location, possibly accounting for the chorus. The habitat upriver from the parking lot has changed due to enterprising beavers and their new double-decked ponds. A great morning for all.

June 2008 Field Trip Summaries, continued

June 27, Friday *El Paso County (ELP)*

Leader(s): Chuck Thorton-Kolbe and John Drummond. **Observers:** Johnnie Kamugisha (Uganda), Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Ira Sanders, Larry Modesitt, Morgan Churchill (Laramie), Bill Eden, Meredith Anderson, Pearl Jordan, Edie Israel, Betsy Shaw, Barabara Hoover, also Mary Ellen Moore and Jeannie Mitchell (Colorado Springs). **Time:** 0600-1500. **Distance:** 160 miles by car (about 20 locally), 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, foothills, grasslands, small lakes, elevation 5000-7000'. **Weather:** Sunny with some clouds at times, 70-90°F, occasional wind and slight breeze. **Totals:** 70 species, 690 individuals.

Highlights: We all had fun helping Johnnie Kamugisha (the top bird guide from Uganda) find a number of North-ern American birds. He was the first to see the ovenbird and put several others on the bird; it had been calling for a while but none were cooperative with views. Johnnie added about a dozen life birds that day along with a number of life birds for other participants.

June 29, Sunday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Diana Douglas, Don Hall, Ed Holub, Thomas Holub, Linda and Matt Knudsen, Roy and Lenny Maurer, Gary McCormack, Marcia Milliken, Terri Smart, Jackie Weller, Tim ?. **Time:** 0730-1330. **Distance:** 47 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Tundra, meadow, coniferous and aspen forest, stream sides, elevation 7480-11796'. **Weather:** Clear, 60-75°F, wind variable, 10-20mph. **Totals:** 37 species, 169 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

June 3 *Lower White Ranch Park (LOW)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 44. **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, chokecherry, elevation 6150-6600'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny to cloudy, 68-78°F, south-southeast wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 108 individuals.

June 10 *Audubon Center at Chatfield (AUD)*

Leader(s): Else Van Erp and Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 35. **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood groves, open meadows, ponds, elevation 5510'. **Weather:** Sunny, 72-88°F, southwest wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 39 species, 133 individuals.

Highlights: Mary Keithler showed us the Long-eared Owl nest in groups of 5 or fewer observers.

June 17 *Parker Regional Park (PAR)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell, Mary Cay Burger and Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 28. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 1 mile by car, 1½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake habitat, suburban, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Sunny, 66-87°F, variable wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 155 individuals.

June 24 *Sedalia Post Office, Indian Creek Campground, DuGay Residence and Environs (SED)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 31. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 1½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, willow and ponderosa pine forest, elevation 7200-7300'. **Weather:** Sunny, 67-77°F, northeast wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 102 individuals.

An Anytime, Anywhere Celebration of Nature in the City

Simple citizen-science project reaches urbanites of all ages

Ithaca, N.Y.-Nature has the power to soothe and enthuse. More people are finding that out as they join the free, year-round "Celebrate Urban Birds!" citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. From schools, hospitals, and senior centers, to wellness programs, scout packs, and military bases, participants are reaping the benefits of a closer connection to the natural world and a new appreciation for city birds.

A girl in 4-H changed her mind about city birds after taking part in the project: "At first I didn't like urban birds," she said. "I thought of them as pests. Then I realized that they are just like me and other kids. We are ignored or people just see us as pests or don't see us at all...yet if you look a little deeper you can see that on the inside we are pretty unique and cool!"

People of all ages and backgrounds participate in Celebrate Urban Birds through gardening, cultural activities and citizen-science. For the citizen-science part of the project, participants watch city birds for 10 minutes, check off 15 target species of birds, and send the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data are gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities and how they use urban green spaces such as parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies for food, resting sites, and shelter.

Individuals can participate on their own or through public events organized by local groups. Celebrate Urban Birds has partnered with more than 2,000 organizations to hold special "birdy" events featuring the arts, science, gardening, or other ways to draw people into bird study and observation. While supplies last, everyone who signs up will receive a Celebrate Urban Birds kit in English and Spanish with two colorful urban birds posters, educational materials about birds and urban greening, a data form, and a packet of sunflower seeds to plant in pots and gardens. More than 60,000 free kits have been distributed.

After receiving his kit, one elementary school youngster with Down syndrome declared, "I will take these posters home and put them up on my wall forever — because I'm going to be a scientist when I grow up!" Teachers find that the 10-minute bird observation can be done within a class period, and it reinforces math, reading, scientific, artistic, and team-building skills. One teacher noted, "Our group of middle school boys was impressed with being able to help with a project sponsored by a university."

Some groups go beyond a single event by greening their neighborhood — creating habitat for birds on balconies, rooftops, front stoops, or community spaces. Others are tapping into the arts, creating dances, drawings, murals, sculptures, puppet shows, and short films based on city birds. The Celebrate Urban Birds web site has lots of resources and suggestions about how to craft an event or project for libraries, nature centers, schools and youth groups, community gardens, home-school groups, or individuals.

Winners have been chosen for the project's first "Beautiful Birds in Urban Places" video and photo contest. Marian Mendez of Hialeah, Florida, captured first prize with her images of birds found in her back yard. She said, "I like to single out one bird and watch it for a while, trying to see the personality and mind behind it. And I'm out in the fresh air, getting sunshine and a new perspective on life." You can see Marian's photos and other great entries on the web site. Stay tuned for the next photo contest! Learn more about Celebrate Urban Birds and sign up at www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org!

Contact: Karen Purcell, Project Leader
607-254-2455
kap7@cornell.edu

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The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

'Serious concern' over Scotland's Seabirds

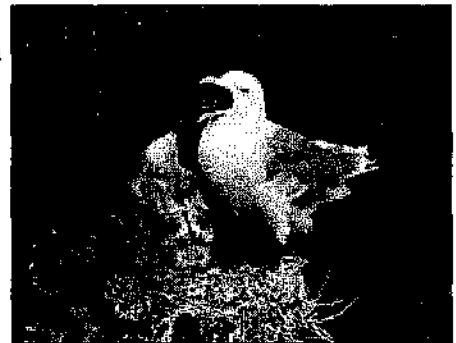
The poor breeding of Scotland's seabirds is giving cause for "serious concern", according to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland.

Early reports from coastal reserves indicate continuing problems for the internationally important populations of guillemots, kittiwakes and others. Nests have been abandoned, with cliffs which "should be teeming" now empty.

RSPB Scotland has called on the Scottish Government to ensure that it puts the environment at the heart of new legislation. Speaking ahead of the launch of the Marine Bill Consultation on Monday, the bird conservation group said evidence suggested these repeated annual breeding failures are now substantially reducing populations of certain species.

Colonies on the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland - together said to be Scotland's most important "seabird cities" - have been hit particularly hard.

Many guillemots and razorbills appeared to have given up any attempt to breed at RSPB's Sumburgh Head reserve on Shetland, with eggs left abandoned on the cliffs as parent birds spent more time at sea in a search for food.



"Seabirds are indicators of the health of the marine environment and, like the canary in the coalmine, the decline in their fortune should be a wake-up call to us all that we must pay attention to."
Doug Gilbert RSPB Scotland ecologist

Kittiwakes also had serious problems. RSPB Scotland said that on the Aberdeenshire coast, at Fowlsheugh, the picture was more encouraging, with razorbills, guillemots and kittiwakes appearing to be nesting successfully, although counts were still down on historic numbers. On the west coast, the breeding season was said to have been more mixed, with both razorbills and kittiwakes experiencing a poor year, but some Arctic tern colonies had fared well and were bringing in plentiful food supplies.

'Policy shift'

Doug Gilbert, an ecologist with RSPB Scotland, said: "Regrettably the poor breeding performance of our internationally important seabird colonies is now an annual theme. "When you look at the evidence over the last 15 years it is quite startling and cause for serious concern.

"At our Copinsay reserve on Orkney, the kittiwake population has plummeted drastically since the mid 1980s, when there were at least 10,000 birds on the cliffs, but today there are just under 2,000." He added: "The declines are primarily being driven by changes in the availability of the fish that these birds depend on. "Seabirds are indicators of the health of the marine environment and, like the canary in the coalmine, the decline in their fortunes should be a wake-up call to us all that we must pay attention to."

RSPB Scotland is calling for the Scottish Government to put the environment at the heart of the Marine Bill to help improve the fortunes of seabirds. Kara Brydson, marine policy officer with RSPB Scotland, said: "The Scottish Marine Bill will not be a silver bullet that will suddenly mean that the problems facing seabirds will be solved overnight. "But it should represent a policy shift that means putting environment at the heart of decision-making and having proper sustainable management of the seas rather than treating them as something that is available to be exploited and used with impunity."

Story from BBC NEWS: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/scotland/north_east/7501732.stm

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-194193>

2008 Spring Count Field Trip Summaries

Our 29th annual Spring Count tallied 172 species (second highest) and 15,712 individuals (3rd highest). Saturday's weather, with high blustery winds, didn't keep the bird count down. As usual, Joey Kellner counted the most species – 109 – at Chatfield, assisted by his 15-hour day. Rocky Mountain Arsenal's wimpier bunch (Urling Kingery kept them out only 10 hours) counted 101 species. Lower Bear Creek tallied 91 species. 47 species occurred in only one area – this shows how the counts fit together to comprise a more complete picture of Denver's spring migration.

We counted 6,071 swallows (4873 at Chatfield, including 1 Purple Martin). We totaled 56 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and only Castlewood didn't report White Pelicans. The list includes 9 warbler species and 11 sparrows (including junco). Chatfield and Cherry Creek had Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Chatfield and Waterton both saw Evening Grosbeaks, Barr and Lower Bear Creek saw the only Canvasbacks, Waterton and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal the only Long-eared Owls. By location, special species include:

Cherry Creek Res.: 12 Marsh Wrens.

Barr periphery: 435 White-faced Ibis, 11 Burrowing Owls,
1 Sage Thrasher.

Barr Lake: Common Loon.

Chatfield: Cassin's Vireo, 12 shorebird species.

Waterton: Summer Tanager.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal: Broad-winged Hawk, Barn Owl.

Castlewood Canyon: 64 bluebirds (Western and Mountain)
and 7 Bobolinks.

Lower Bear Creek: Northern Waterthrush.

May 9, Friday *Cherry Creek Reservoir (CHE)*

Leader(s): Mary Burger. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Kathy Bollhoefer, Becky Campbell, Marv Colman, Diana Douglas, Frank Hatch, Nancy Hatch, David Hill, Mary Keithler, Lois Levinson, Polleke Siraa, Sue Schulman, Harriet Stratton. **Time:** 0700-1500. **Totals:** 63 species, 569 individuals.

May 10, Saturday *Barr Lake Periphery (BLP)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Dave O'Reilly. **Time:** 0730-1430. **Distance:** 94 miles by car. **Habitat:** Plains and riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy with periods of light rain, 43-58°F, northwest wind, 10-30mph. **Totals:** 64 species, 2631 individuals.

May 10, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CSP)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Jim Chaney, Dave Conant, Lynn Conant, George Denavit, Paul Differding, Peggy Gonder, Caroline Hancock, Jill Holden, Alison Kondler, Randy Lentz, Kathanne Lynch, Peter Reichel (Pennsylvania), Steve Stachowiak. **Time:** 0600-1900. **Distance:** 32 miles by car, 7.5 miles on foot. **Weather:** AM calm and partly cloudy, mid-afternoon cloudy and groggle with hard rain at 1345, 40-54°F, very windy by 0900, calm by 1600, north wind, 0-20mph. **Totals:** 109 species, 6033 individuals.

May 10, Saturday *Waterton (WAT)*

Leader(s): Hugh Kingery. **Observers:** Tracy Abell, Karen Bickett, Tom Bush, E.B. Ellis, Gail Evans, Tom Halverstadt, Kirk Huffstater, Kent Kreider, Liz Kreider, Deb Mallory, Sandy Selzer, Mike Serruto. **Time:** 0600-1430. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Cottonwood riparian, grassland, cattail marsh, open pond and stream. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to cloudy, blustery, 43-50°F, winds to 40 mph (after 1000). **Totals:** 70 species, 710 individuals.

May 10, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Warren Finch, Dick Pratt, Larry Seidl. **Time:** 0630-1500. **Distance:** 9 miles by car, 6 m. on foot. **Weather:** Cloudy to partly cloudy, rain showers, 40-50°F, north wind, 0-40mph. **Totals:** 70 species, 1720 individuals.

May 11, Sunday *Lower Bear Creek (LOW)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood, Mike Foster. **Observers:** Rick Creswell, Jim Douggan, Susan Gaarder, Colleen Nunn, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, Tina Jones. **Time:** 0600-1800. **Distance:** 45 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoirs, pond, riparian, short-grass prairie, elevation 5500-5700'. **Weather:** Sunny, blue skies, no cloud cover, 35-70°F, minimal wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 90 species, 1583 individuals.

May 11, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Randy Lentz. **Observers:** Joey Kellner. **Time:** 0530-1330. **Distance:** 22 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, gambel oak, riparian, gravel pit, grassland, elevation 6300'. **Weather:** Sunny, 28-70°F, south wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 72 species, 817 individuals.

May 10, Saturday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (ROC)*

Leader(s): Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Bill Eden, MacKenzie Goldthwait, Doug Kibbe, Hugh Kingery, Tom Parchman, Elizabeth Smith, Jean Tate, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0600-1600. **Distance:** 24 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian cottonwood forests, old homesteads, wetlands and ponds, grassland. **Weather:** Clear, 34-74°F. **Totals:** 101 species, 1641 individuals.

A Curator of Ornithology for the Museum?

On behalf of the membership, the D.F.O. Board has sent a letter to Director Sparks and Drs. Johnson and Demboski at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science asking that the Museum hire a Curator of Ornithology.

The Board strongly urges D.F.O. members to send their own personal letters encouraging the Museum to add a Curator of Ornithology. D.F.O.'s complete letter can be found on the website (<http://www.dfobirders.org>).

The highlights of D.F.O.'s letter are as follows:

- The Museum has approximately fourteen curators in a wide variety of important scientific fields.
- The Museum has a significant deficit in not having a Curator of Ornithology.
- The Museum has not had an ornithologist on staff since 1998.
- The Museum's own newsletter states that the "collection serves as an irreplaceable geographic and chronological record of avian diversity because it is one of the largest in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region".
- The Museum's avian collection is well curated and in great shape.
- The Museum's avian collection continues to expand and to be used.

However, without a Curator of Ornithology and the associated specimen-based research that such a person would carry out on an ongoing basis, the collection cannot move forward to a new, higher level of excellence. By hiring someone who will utilize and expand the collection in conjunction with his/her own work and by bringing in external support for the collection this larger goal can be achieved.

- * The Museum and the state of Colorado need this person and the leadership he/she would offer to the lay and scientific communities.
- * Colorado ranks in the top half dozen states in North America in avian species diversity. There is need for participation in and support of important ongoing avian research projects in Colorado.
- * Birdwatching and bird feeding constitute the top outdoor activity and fastest growing hobby in the United States second only to gardening.
- * Denver Field Ornithologists ranks as one of the top birding organizations in the country by offering quality fieldtrips some fifty weeks a year, and the Colorado Field Ornithologists...would benefit greatly in furthering the knowledge of Colorado ornithology from an expanded partnership with the Museum and a new curator.
- * Climate change is occurring in Colorado -- and on planet Earth -- and is affecting bird populations.
- * There is need for additional ongoing ornithological research on Colorado's threatened and endangered species.
- * The National Audubon Society has identified numerous common Colorado bird species which are in decline.

Send letters to Mr. George Sparks, President and CEO
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
2001 Colorado Boulevard
Denver, Colorado 80205

(Copies of the same letter should also be sent to: Dr. Kirk Johnson, Vice President of Research and Collections, and Chief Curator Dr. John Demboski, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology)

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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
First class mailing of field trip reports—for those without internet access.	\$5 for the remainder of the year (\$10 annual fee)

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting: E-Mail Address _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE August 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS													TUESDAY BIRDERS			
DATE	2	3	8	10	16	17	23	24	28	30-1	30	31	5	12	19	28	TOTAL
LOCATION	ROC	CHE	WHE	PIN	BAR	BOU	PAR	ROX	BEL	NEB	RIG	NOR	EVE	HAV	ALD	PM	
Pied-billed Grebe							3		1			1					5
Eared Grebe												1					1
American White Pelican		24										44					68
Double-crested Cormorant		8	55		20		4	6	5			1	17				118
Great Blue Heron		4	5	1			1		3			5	1				20
Great Egret							3					1					4
Snowy Egret			4	2					4			3					13
Cattle Egret												1					1
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1					3			1					5
White-faced Ibis												19					19
Turkey Vulture	1			1		5	8		2					1			16
Canada Goose			65	8	20			15	21			110	20				258
Wood Duck									4			1					5
Gadwall							3		12								15
Mallard		30	15	8	5		4	21	20				1				105
Blue-winged Teal												8					8
Cinnamon Teal			4									1					5
teal sp.												120					120
Northern Shoveler							1					35					36
Northern Pintail												1					1
Green-winged Teal												23					23
Redhead												14					14
Lesser Scaup																	0
Hooded Merganser			1														1
Common Merganser				3												9	12
Northern Harrier							1					5					6
Sharp-shinned Hawk												1					1
Cooper's Hawk							1		1			1				1	4
Accipiter sp.							1										1
Saybrook's Hawk		1			1		4		7			45					58
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2		5	3	3	3	1				14	1	6	1	3	43
western races	1																(1)
Ferruginous Hawk							1										1
Rough-legged Hawk																	0
buteo sp.				1													1
Golden Eagle							1	1							1		3
American Kestrel				1		1	2	2	6			19				1	32
Ring-necked Pheasant		1															1
Wild Turkey							4										4
Virginia Rail												4					4
Sora		3										3					6
American Coot		1			70		8					75					154

SPECIES	OFO FIELD TRIPS												TUESDAY BIRDERS				
DATE	2	3	9	10	16	17	23	24	28	30-1	30	31	5	12	19	26	TOTAL
LOCATION	ROC	CHE	WHE	PIN	BAR	SOU	PAR	ROX	BEL	NEB	RIG	NOR	EVE	HAV	ALD	MIN	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	3		2			10	7	8					4	8	9	7	84
Rufous Hummingbird	1			1			1									1	4
Belted Kingfisher			1	4		1	1		2			2		1		1	13
Red-headed Woodpecker				2								8					10
Williamson's Sapsucker	1			1													2
Red-naped Sapsucker	2												2	2	1		7
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2			1	1		2			4	1	1			15
"RockyMountain" race	1																(1)
"eastern" race							1										(1)
Hairy Woodpecker			1			1	2						1		1		8
"RockyMountain" race						1											(1)
Northern Flicker	2	30	8	8		2	5	1	4			4		2	2	1	89
"Red-shafted" race	(2)			(6)					(4)			(4)				1	(19)
Western Wood-Pewee	3	6	1	1		5	1					21		1	1		40
Willow Flycatcher												1					1
Least Flycatcher												1					1
Cordilleran Flycatcher							2						1		1		4
Buff-breasted Flycatcher																	0
Ampidonax sp.	2			3		5	1					3					14
Eastern Phoebe						1											1
Say's Phoebe								3	1								4
Great Crested Flycatcher												1					1
Western Kingbird		22					15					33					70
Eastern Kingbird												19					19
Warbling Vireo			2									4					6
Gray Jay														1			1
Stellar's Jay	4			1		3	4	1					3	3	3	3	25
Blue Jay			1		4		1					12					18
Western Scrub-Jay						3	2	10									15
Clark's Nutcracker														5			6
Black-billed Magpie	25	13		6		2	21	2					2				71
American Crow	4		1	7		1	3		2				4	2	12	2	38
Common Raven	1			7			1						4	3	1		17
Horned Lark												50					50
Tree Swallow	5	4	12													3	24
Violet-green Swallow	3		4	16		4							16			10	53
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			10									5					15
Cliff Swallow		25	2	8								3				10	48
Barn Swallow	3	11	15	8			3		12			48	2			1	103
swallow sp.														2			2
Black-capped Chickadee		8	4			3	6	12	3					2		2	38
Mountain Chickadee	2			3			2						15	7	23	8	60
Red-breasted Nuthatch													1	4	1		5
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	2				1	3						3	1	3		15
Pygmy Nuthatch	4			8		3							12		4		31
Brown Creeper													2	1			3
Rock Wren	1						2										3
Canyon Wren						1		1									2
House Wren	6	6		1	1	1	2					27	5	1			48
Marsh Wren		1										30					31
American Dipper													3				3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1			1		1							1				4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1		5	4	4				9					23
Western Bluebird	1			5			1								1		8
Mountain Bluebird	30			19			4								12	35	100
Townsend's Solitaire													1				1
Hermit Thrush													1	3			4
American Robin	3	2	5	12		1	2	1	3			30		4		12	75
Gray Catbird			1			1	3										5
European Starling		12	12				1		4			65					84
American Pipit	2																2
Cedar Waxwing				3		1	5					3				1	13
Yellow Warbler		6	4	1			1		5			25				1	43
Yellow-rumped Warbler				5											3		8
"Audubon's" race				(5)											3		(8)
American Redstart												4					4
MacGillivray's Warbler	4					4											8
Common Yellowthroat		1										6					7
Wilson's Warbler												16					16
Yellow-breasted Chat						5						1					6
Western Tanager				2													2
Green-tailed Towhee						3									1		4
Spotted Towhee			2			25	2	2									31

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS												TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	2	3	9	10	16	17	23	24	28	30-1	30	31	5	12	19	26	
DATE	ROC	CHE	WHE	PIN	BAR	SOU	PAR	ROX	BEL	NEB	RIG	NOR	EVE	HAV	ALD	PIN	
LOCATION	ROC	CHE	WHE	PIN	BAR	SOU	PAR	ROX	BEL	NEB	RIG	NOR	EVE	HAV	ALD	PIN	
Chipping Sparrow	18			19		8	15		7			6	13		15		101
Clay-colored Sparrow							5					2					7
Vesper Sparrow	2						4	2				4		2			14
Lark Sparrow							6		2			3	2	2	8		23
Lark Bunting												55					55
Savannah Sparrow															1		1
Song Sparrow		2	1	1					1							1	6
Lincoln's Sparrow				3													3
Dark-eyed Junco				10									3				13
"Gray-headed" race				10													(10)
Black-headed Grosbeak				1								1					2
Lazuli Bunting						1											1
Red-winged Blackbird		10	4	4	18				2			20	6				84
Eastern Meadowlark					1												1
Western Meadowlark		2					1	1				24					28
Yellow-headed Blackbird							5					70					75
Brewer's Blackbird			2									5					7
Common Grackle		9	4	13					2			5					33
Great-Tailed Grackle												3					3
Brown-headed Cowbird		2					300					2					304
Baltimore Oriole												2					2
Bullock's Oriole		3					5					4					12
Pine Grosbeak																2	2
House Finch		3	50	8	15		5		8				4				84
Red Crossbill	12			3									2	2		1	20
Pine Siskin	1			21									5	5		1	33
Lesser Goldfinch				1			10	4						2		1	18
"Green-backed" race							10										(10)
"Black-backed" race																1	(1)
American Goldfinch		25	12	1		8	7					2				2	57
House Sparrow		3	8	2			3					70					86
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	150	408	349	287	203	132	582	104	165	6	0	2056	160	88	127	85	4,876
TOTAL SPECIES	32	43	40	48	15	34	70	22	32	0	0	94	34	29	21	25	157
OBSERVATION LEGEND:	a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, + =also in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated																

ROC - Rocky Mountain National Park
 CHE - Cherry Creek State Park
 WHE - Wheat Ridge Greenbelt
 PIN - Pine/Cheesman Area
 BAR - Barr Lake State Park
 SOU - South Mesa Trail to Shadow Canyon
 PAR - Parker Regional Park, Parker Co, Castlewood Canyon State Park
 ROX - Roxborough State Park
 BEL - Belmar Historic Park
 NEB - Crescent Lake Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska
 RIG - Rigg Ranch
 NOR - Northeastern Colorado, Frewitt and Jackson Reservoirs



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

September 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 9

Monday, September 22 Feature Meeting

Lynn Wickersham, the Project Manager for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, will provide the DFO a quick update on the project and share the initial results and analysis. She will specifically address the following.

Brief Update

- Project Background, Purpose and Methods
- Regions and Regional Coordinators

Initial Data and Analysis

- Results after Year 2 (2007-08)
- Highlights of Volunteer Efforts (Photos, Interesting Observations)
- Discussion of Noticeable Trends for Colorado's Breeding Birds



Lynn will let us know how we can get involved with this important project. With 12 years of experience as an avian ecologist, with a particular expertise in population ecology of passerine birds, Lynn is the statewide Project Manager for the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II Project (COBBA II), working under a grant facilitated by the San Juan Institute of Natural and Cultural Resources at Fort Lewis College. She is also the co-principal, with her husband John, of Animas Biological Studies (ABS), in Durango, Colorado, an organization conducting avian research and monitoring in Colorado and New Mexico.

Continued on page 3



September Field Trips

Saturday, September 6

Waterton Canyon

Leader: Sue Schulman, (303)773-3540. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Audubon Center at Chatfield - from C-470 at Wadsworth Blvd., proceed south 4.4 miles and turn left on Waterton Road, then an immediate left into the parking lot. Come on out for Fall warblers and other riparian songbirds! Be prepared to walk a mile or two; bring lunch, water, sunscreen and insect repellent. After lunch we may head over to the Chatfield Marina to catch the action there.

Sunday, September 7

Prewitt Reservoir

Leader: Ira Sanders, (303)278-7172. Meet Leader at 0630 at the DOW office at 6060 Broadway (I-25 to 58th Avenue, west to Broadway and north to DOW). Explore the reservoir for migrant shorebirds and the riparian areas and inlet canal for migrant passerines and resident species. Full day trip; carpooling encouraged. Bring lunch, plenty of water and don't forget the insect repellent and sunscreen.

Continued on next page

September Field Trips and Fall Count, continued



Denver has conducted Fall Bird Counts for over 20 years. Denver Field Ornithologists and ASGD sponsor this tradition. No fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone welcome to help – more eyes see more birds.

Saturday September 13

Waterton, downstream. 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed. Leader: Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723. Meet at 0630 at Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning onto Waterton/Roxborough road and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon).

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Bob Brown, 303-791-6204. Meet at 0700 at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School. State Parks Pass required.

Chatfield State Park

Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0630 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Barr Lake periphery

This trip does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina. Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. jackie.king@ccd.edu. Meet at 0700 at entrance gate to Barr Lake State Park.

Barr Lake State Park.

This is a ten-mile (or equivalent), all-day hike around the lake. Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035. Meet at 0630 at RMBO, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. South off Bromley Lane; from I-76, first road east of railroad track. State Parks pass required.

Lower Bear Creek & Marston Reservoir

Leader: Mike Henwood, 303-716-8551; hawkhen@aol.com. Meet at 6:30AM at the entrance to Bear Creek Lake Park, located on the SE corner of Morrison Road and C470. Call or email leader so he can arrange for park passes.

Sunday September 14

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Randy Lentz, 303-680-3381. If his phone sounds like a fax receiver, send him a fax! Meet at 0630 at the Homestead. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance; Homestead is first parking lot on the left. State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Call leader to sign up, before Aug. 18.

Saturday, September 20

Red Rocks Park and Lair o' the Bear

Leader: Lynn Willcockson, (303)757-7000. Call Leader ahead of time to register for this trip and get directions to the Trading Post at Red Rocks where we will meet at 0800. Look for Canyon and Rock Wrens, wood-peckers and other foothills denizens, and see what's moving through during migration. Bring lunch and come equipped with adequate footwear for this 3/4 day adventure.

Continued on next page

Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas: Updated and Initial Data, continued

Lynn has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and an M.S. in Biology from Arkansas State University. For her Master's degree research, Lynn directed a two-year project comparing nesting success of early successional passerine birds in regenerating forests subjected to two silvicultural treatments and evaluated postfledging survival and habitat use of yellow-breasted chats (*Icteria virens*).

Prior to taking on COBBA II and ABS, Lynn worked for five years as an environmental consultant for Ecosphere Environmental Services in Durango where she served as lead biologist and project manager for a variety of avian research and monitoring projects in Colorado and New Mexico. Prior to working as an environmental consultant, Lynn spent one year as the songbird monitoring coordinator for Hawks Aloft, Inc., located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She continues her work with gray vireos in New Mexico, examining nesting success and nest site selection, site fidelity, and survival at Kirtland Air Force Base. She also assists her husband with regional raptor nest monitoring in northwestern New Mexico.

All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. DOORS OPEN BY 7.00pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7.30pm. Mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7.15pm. Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Quick Reminder: Future Dates and Speakers: Mark your calendar now for the following fourth Mondays of the month. Kevin Cook, a local Fort Collins nature writer and travel leader, will put forth some new perspectives on listing and enjoying wildlife watching and the wild on October 27, 2008. On November 24, the engaging world bird watcher, John Drummond, will present his photos and knowledge of birding in Venezuela. On January 26, 2009, Dr. Hugh McIsaac from the University of Denver will share from his research on bird navigation. Dr. John Demboski, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will share some of his special knowledge about the bird skins collection at the Museum on February 23, 2009. A few more special speakers will round out the Spring 2009 schedule. Note: We do not have a December 2008 meeting.

September Field Trips, continued from previous page

Sunday, September 21

Fort Collins Natural Areas

Leader: Dave Leatherman, daleatherman@msn.com. Meet leader at 0830 at the Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins: from I-25 take the Mulberry exit (SR14) and proceed west approx. 5 miles to Shields, turn north (right) and go to Mountain Ave., turn west (left) and follow Mountain Ave. until it dead-ends at the cemetery entrance (pun unavoidable). We will bird around the cemetery and continue to the riparian areas along the Poudre River either north or south of Prospect Road, depending on recent activity. We will explore how birds utilize different food resources and look for fall migrants. You may bring lunch or purchase it locally. Trip will wrap up at around 2:30; those returning toward Denver can take Prospect east to I-25.

Saturday, September 27

Two Ponds and Rocky Flats NWR

Leader: David Rhoades, (303)424-8633. This is a space-limited trip; call Leader to register. Be among the first to tour Rocky Flats as part of a bird life survey! Meet Leader at 0800 at the Two Ponds parking lot for a birdwalk of about 2 hours, then board a van to tour the "flats" part of Rocky Flats as well as the historic homesteaded valley. Trip will wind down at about 1 PM. Lunch optional; cameras are permitted.

Sunday, September 28

Beaver Brook - Chavez Trail

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303)422-3728. Meet Leader at 0700 the North Dinosaur Ridge parking lot for carpooling. This four-mile loop includes some steep terrain, but the pace will be leisurely; late migrants and mountain species will be our visual and auditory quarry. 3/4 day trip; bring lunch, water, snacks, sunscreen, sturdy footwear and be prepared for changing weather conditions.

DFO Educational Endowment Grant Recipients, 2008

Denver Field Ornithologists gave grant money to the following recipients for the year 2008.

Reesa Conrey, [a graduate student at Colorado State University] received additional funds for her research on Burrowing Owls and Black-tailed Prairie Dogs. Reesa has been looking at the interrelationship between these two creatures. She focused her work on prairie dog towns with Bubonic Plague and on those same towns when the dogs died and or disappeared. Reesa wanted to know how this would affect numbers of Burrowing Owls that were present in these towns. Gas money for going back and forth from Ft. Collins to Pawnee National Grasslands was needed. DFO was able to help this project continue.

Joyce Gellhorn, biological consultant and author of *Song of the Alpine and White-tailed Ptarmigan: Ghosts of the Alpine Tundra*, received additional funds for her brochure on White-tailed Ptarmigan. The money received from DFO was used partially for printing of the brochure which was distributed at the Alpine Visitor Center at Rocky Mountain National Park with no charge to visitors. The photographic pamphlet discusses natural history of White-tailed Ptarmigan and how it is important to protect the alpine tundra and the Ptarmigan.

Brendon Doyle, East High School: DFO gave some money to East High School in 2007 for their Bird and Nature Club. Brendon, a teacher at East High School, wanted to create an opportunity for students to observe, learn about, and get to know about birds in the Denver area. The high school is located at 1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver. Last year and this year's money was used for purchasing birdseed. Nesting birdboxes were added to the Bird and Nature Club this year. Brendon has said it has been a great learning experience for the students.

In the past DFO has mentioned to Grant Recipients that they should be ready to give a presentation to Denver Field Ornithologists about their work, if asked by the organization to do so. If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying to the Educational Fund, please encourage this person to contact DFO (**Tina Jones** Tjcalliope@hotmail.com). The emphasis of an acceptable grant shall be for projects that educate the public concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Field Trip Summaries for July 2008

July 4-6, Fri-Sun *North Park (NOR)*

Leader(s): Chuck Lowrie. **Observers:** Margaret Arp, Mary C Burger, Gail Campbell. **Time:** 0630-2045. **Distance:** 296 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Sage, grassland lakes, willow carr, forest, elevation 8099-9200'. **Weather:** Clear to overcast, sprinkle, 57-72°F, west to northwest wind, 0-25mph. **Totals:** 100 species, 1261 individuals.

Highlights: A magpie landed on a moose's back and preened. A badger trotted down the road where we were parked.

July 10, Thursday *Gregory Canyon, Boulder County (GRE)*

Leader(s): Bob Shade. **Observers:** Mary Keithler, Lois Levinson, Sue Schulman, Richard Coles, Tony Wilk, Walt and Linda Knudson, Kristina Koff. **Time:** 0730. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Meadow, riparian, coniferous and deciduous, ponderosa, mixed coniferous. **Weather:** Clear, hot, 72-96°F, south wind, 5mph. **Totals:** 53 species, 206 individuals.

Highlights: We were borderline, almost too late for this location but still managed five species of warblers, including five "Big Mac" warblers. We were happy to find two nests; one a broad-tailed hummingbird and one a warbling vireo, both near Green Mountain Lodge. Western tanagers were crowd-pleasers but the scarlet tanager reported here earlier was gone. Three of us found about 10 bobolinks in the afternoon flocking in a tree on Teller Farms Trail.

July 12, Saturday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Bob Righter. **Observers:** Ellie Baker, Mike and Mary Blatchley, Ed and Tom Holub, Bob Zilly. **Time:** 0800-1500. **Distance:** 65 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Tundra, mountain stream, ponderosa, wet meadows, elevation 7300-12000'. **Weather:** Clear, 60-75°F, west wind, 0-20mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 177 individuals.

Continued on next page

Demeter's Torch: The Beauty /S the Beast

How do you suppose other creatures interpret the environment? And what role do they see for themselves in it? Most of us assume that other creatures have no consciousness, therefore they cannot have any view of the environment, or their role in it. Out of laziness or arrogance, we assign other creatures to a kind of background environment, over there, with us safely separated from them, over here.

It might prove interesting to make difference assumptions about other critters, which I intend to do in a moment. But first, let's explore our attitude towards ourselves.

What is man, according to man? In an optimistic moment, no doubt shaded with irony, Shakespeare said the following in *Hamlet*.

What a piece of work is a man!
How noble in reason!
How infinite in faculty!
In form and moving how express and admirable!
In action how like an angel!
In apprehension how like a god!

But Blaise Pascal in his *Pensées* expressed a different view.

What a chimera then is man!
What a novelty!
What a monster, what a chaos, what a contradiction,
What a prodigy!
Judge of all things, feeble worm of the earth,
Depository of truth, a sink of uncertainty and error,
The glory and shame of the universe.

Literature is full of such diverse appraisals. But art only mirrors Nature, in this case human nature. We are a bundle of contradictions. The moral dualism we see in ourselves carries over into our traditional attitude towards the environment. Thus we divide the natural world into what is good (beneficial or pleasant for man) and bad (harmful or too exotic for man). Further, because of Nature's strangeness, we justify being separate from Her.

Notice the self-serving logic at work here: it is acceptable for humans to be diverse, indeed variety is a part of our glory, yet diversity in Nature presents inconvenience, resists predictability, poses danger.

How do we justify such a double standard? It comes from taking our own PR too seriously. For generations anthropologists and archeologists have been telling us how wonderfully different we are. Lately they've been joined by cultural historians and evolutionary biologists. We've celebrated ourselves because of erect posture, manual dexterity, tools, big brains, lan-

guage, and culture—without considering the side-effects of such unique gifts.

Among those side-effects are the numerous wars we have waged with each other; the number of species we have driven to extinction; the many "primitive" peoples we have extirpated; the amount of damage we have done, and are doing, to the ecosystems that support all life. Considering how much of the planet's land mass humans monopolize for our own purposes (over half), we begin to look like a universal parasite.

Our bland assumptions about human progress and superiority have blinded us to the law of unintended consequences. Recently, for example, we have learned that automobiles, industrial production, and clearing of forests impact climate change. We are only beginning to grasp the huge implications of tiny mutations in our genetic code. For example, people who have evolved an immunity to malaria are more vulnerable to sickle cell anemia. Chimpanzees and humans have an almost identical genome, yet when exposed to the AIDS virus, chimps are immune to the resulting complications, whereas we get sick (25 million of us have died, another 50 million are infected).

Are humans really entitled to consider themselves a superior, progressive species? Let's take another slant on the issue. Assume for a moment that bacteria had consciousness too. What would their PR folks say? They would proclaim how adept they were at exchanging DNA and improving their immunity, how versatile they were in adapting to every known habitat, how prolific in spawning countless varieties. They would remind us that bacteria have been around for over 3 billion years, *Homo sapiens* for roughly one hundred twenty thousand. In their long history, a few bacteria have caused some terrible diseases, but the overwhelming majority has found beneficial employment: dissolving wastes, including toxic wastes, digesting grasses for herbivores, processing food for virtually all mammals, including humans, converting gaseous nitrogen to a form usable by countless creatures, assisting in photosynthesis, recycling carbon, and promoting the growth of roots in trees. Not bad for a mere microorganism.

Looking at the comparable track record of humans, I am left with some troubling questions. Are our achievements tied in some way to a heedless disregard of consequences? Is it our nature that whatever we can imagine we feel entitled to do? Is dominion over other creatures incompatible with responsible stewardship? Do we have choice in such matters, or is the will to power more than an aberration? Is it, perhaps, the defining character of our species?

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July Field Trip Summaries, continued from page 4

July 13, Sunday *Golden Gate Canyon State Park (GOL)*

Leader(s): Paula Hansley. **Time:** 0815-1230. **Weather:** Clear, warm, 50-75°F. **Totals:** 34 species, 81 individuals.

Highlights: Seeing a Rocky Mountain race fox sparrow sing its beautiful song by the visitors center, finding a warbling vireo nest, seeing a sharp-shinned hawk flash in front of us, and seeing a tree swallow peeking from its nest hole in an aspen.

July 19, Saturday *Lair O' the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Dan Brachear, Dan Brooke, Pat Conner, Jean Dais, Clint Jones, Cheryl Tenton, Jannette Wesley. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 1.6 miles on foot. **Habitat:** River riparian, mountain forest, dry hillsides, meadow, elevation 6500'. **Weather:** Sunny, warm, 66-90°F, west wind, 0-2mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 113 individuals.

July 20, Sunday *Upper White Ranch (UPP)*

Leader(s): Toni Rautus. **Observers:** Lyn Graves, Niña Routh. **Time:** 0700-1130. **Distance:** 4½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, pine forest, grassland. **Weather:** Sunny, 80-89°F, calm. **Totals:** 28 species, 174 individuals.

Highlights: Western wood peewee sitting on a nest and western tanager feeding baby.

July 23, Wednesday *Filius Park and Mt Evans - Echo and Summit Lakes (FIL)*

Leader(s): Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** John Drummond, Patty Echelmeyer, Lisa Edwards, Warren Finch, Ann Garaghty (Wisconsin), Barbara Hoover, Pauline Ide, Ede Israel, Walt and Linda Knudsen, Mark Mariniak, Mary Ann Rose, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 0730-1530. **Distance:** 53 miles by car, 1¼ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, douglas fir, alpine lakes, elevation 7640-12830'. **Weather:** Clear am, partly cloudy to cloudy pm, 51-69°F, variable wind, 0-15mph. **Totals:** 41 species, 184 individuals. **Highlights:** Counted 26 species in the first hour at Filius Park, good results for there. Brown-capped rosy finch at Summit Lake; difficult to see but they flew over. Rained out at Echo Lake or the list of 41 species would have been at least 4-5 more.

July 27, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Jean Eddins, RD Ginn, Pauline Ide, Clint Jones, Nina Routh, Betsy Shaw. **Time:** 0700-1200. **Distance:** 8½ miles by car, 4½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian and aspen, reservoir water, elevation 5585'. **Weather:** Overcast early, clearing and hazy late, 65-85°F, calm. **Totals:** 50 species, 459 individuals.

July 28, Sunday *Genesee Mountain Park (GEN)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Tuesday Birders

July 1, 2008 *Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space (REY)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Alice Kruse. **Observers:** 34 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, ponderosa pine and douglas fir, elevation 6000-7400'. **Weather:** Clear, calm to cloudy, 57-87°F, wind variable, 0-3 mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 99 individuals.

July 8 *Stapleton Park - Selby's Feeder, Braille Trail, Genesee Mtn Park (STA)*

Leader(s): Else Van Erp, Judy Miller. **Observers:** 33 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 4 miles by car, 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponderosa pine woodland, elevation 7200-7600'. **Weather:** Sunny, clear to cloudy, 64-60°, some wind. **Totals:** 29 species, 128 individuals. **July 15, 2008** *Evergreen Lake and Maxwell Falls (MAX)*

July 15 *Evergreen Lake and Maxwell Falls (EVE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 32. **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, willow, pine, spruce and aspen, elevation 7250-8400'. **Weather:** Clear, calm, 66-78°F, wind variable, 0-3 mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 186 individuals.

July 22, 2008 *Lair o' the Bear Jeffco Open Space Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Joan Strand. **Observers:** 35 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, ponderosa pine and blue spruce, elevation 6350'. **Weather:** Clear, still, 74-86°F, variable breeze, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 28 species, 173 individuals.

July 29 *Flying J Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park (FLY)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 32. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa and lodgepole pine, douglas fir, woodland with some meadows, elevation 8000-8200'. **Weather:** Clear, 68-78°F, north wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 154 individuals.

July Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Rufous Hummingbird	7/1	1	Franktown	Douglas	Karen Metz
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	July	2-9	4 trips, Sheephorn Mt Atlas block	Grand	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Willow Flycatcher	7/17	3, 6	Sheephorn Mt Atlas block	Grand	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Cassin's Kingbird	7/22	3	Limon	Lincoln	Urling & Hugh Kingery
vireo, red-eyed	7/20	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Ovenbird	7/3	3	Deer Creek County Park-S of Mesa Loop Trail	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Ovenbird	7/14	1	Deer Creek County Park-upper end of Rattlesnake Gulch	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Ovenbird	7/15	4	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Bunting, LazulixIndigo hybrid	7/15, 7/29	1	Willow Springs Open Space	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Bunting, LazulixIndogi hybrid	7/22	1	Lair o' The Bear	Jefferson	Barbara Bridge, Patty Echelmeyer, Barbara Fay, Mona Krebs.
Bunting, Indigo	7/16	1 m	Bear Creek Lake Park, E of Muskrat Meadows	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Bunting, Indigo	7/20	1 pair	Bear Creek Lake Park, near Fitness # 8	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
Bunting, Indigo	7/22	1 m	Bear Creek Lake Park, near Fitness # 8	Jefferson	Mike Herwood
McCown's Longspur	7/2	2 males	Limon	Lincoln	Urling & Hugh Kingery
McCown's Longspur	7/22	3, 1 FL	Limon	Lincoln	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Grackle, Great-tailed	7/5	1 f	Chatfield Arboretum	Jefferson	Joey Kellner

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Circle., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522

Welcome New Members!

Susan Clasen 3315 Beech Court Golden, Co 80401, Shelley Chaiffetz 1050 S Monaco Parkway #135 Denver, Co 80224, Sondra Hansen 1632 Pontiac St Denver CO 80220, Jim Helfrich 2474 S Fillmore St. Denver Co 80210, Edie Israel 304 27th St Boulder Co 80305, Sandy Kerns 551 W Mineral Ave Apt 513 Littleton, Co 80102, Mic Prochazka 9090 Stuart St Westminster, Co 80031, Rosemary Sleeve 7505 W Yale Ave Unit 1806 Denver Co 80227

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Susan Clasen RBA and EEF, Shelley Chaiffetz EEF gift from Audrey Gilden,
Thank you!

Should Your Next Bird Book Be a Tree ID Guide?

Or Find the Birds by Knowing What & Where They Eat

*Editor's Note: After Dave Leatherman's fascinating and useful talk at the March 24 meeting, the DFO invited him to present highlights in *The Lark Bunting*.*

We all want to be as good at birding as possible and realize the greater our knowledge, the greater our enjoyment. Many birders believe the easiest path to expertdom is by reading identification books. But I maintain that the mining of bird behavior will yield much more "ore" than ID books. After all, we first have to find a bird in order to attempt identification. Bird food habits is one aspect of behavior study that is both productive and fun.

Considering recent geologic time on into the foreseeable future, Colorado is landlocked. And on land, food acquisition by birds involves photosynthesis. This elegantly simple process allows plants to manufacture food by combining water and carbon dioxide under the influence of sunlight in the presence of chlorophyll. Plant-made sugars sustain plants, and allow plants to be directly consumed by birds-- or by other animals such as insects-- which in turn are the focus of birds.

An average-sized songbird like the Northern Mockingbird is estimated to require 60 calories of food per day. An average 150-pound human takes in 30 to 60 times this much. Doing the math, we far exceed 30-60 times the weight of a bird. The high metabolism of birds explains their gluttony.

Food categories birds rely on heavily:

Fruit, nectar, seeds, fish, insects, and rodents.

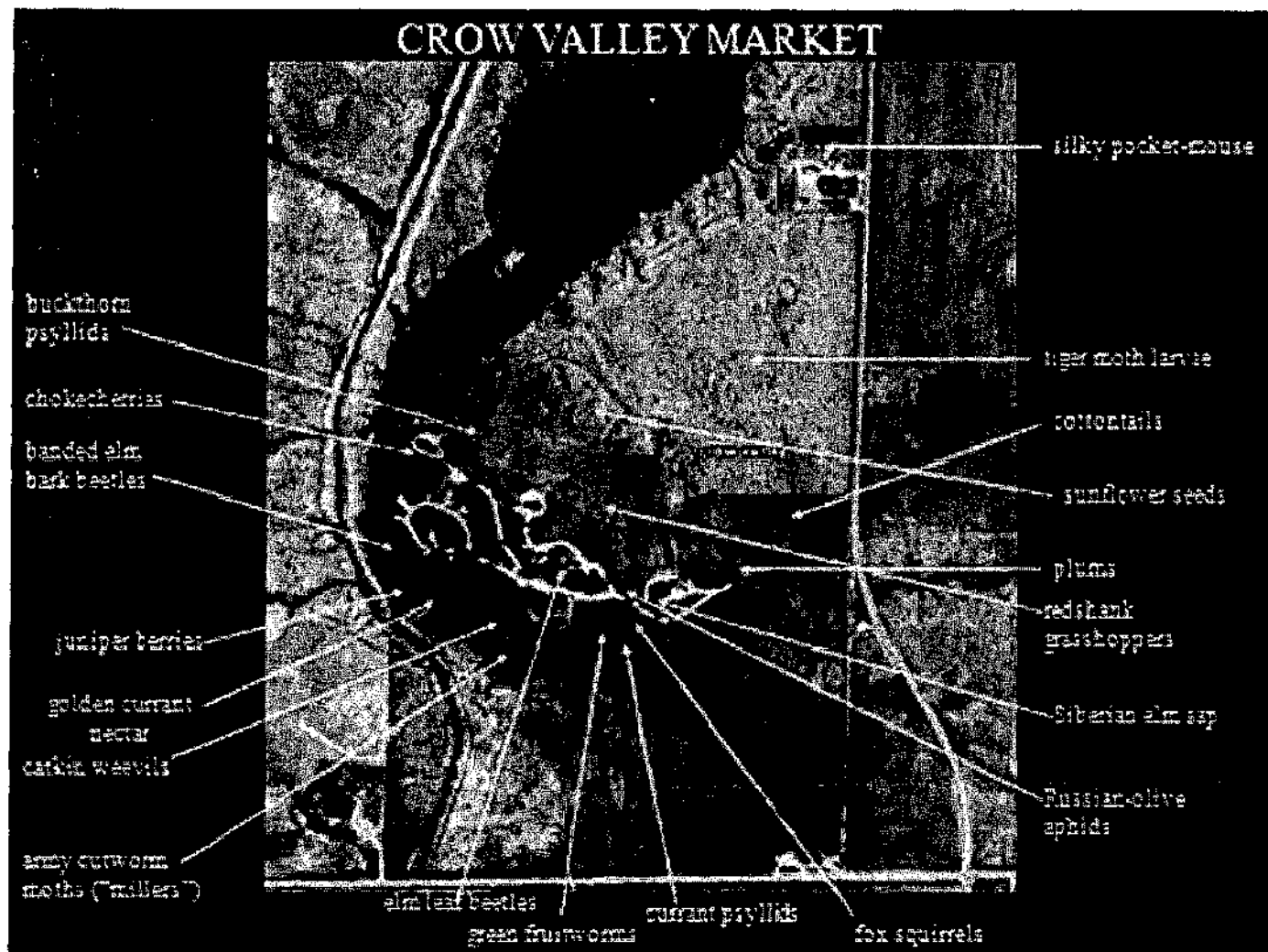
Trees all Colorado birders should know, and then pay attention to in the field:

ponderosa pine	Colorado blue spruce	junipers
Douglas-fir	pinon pine/ Scots pine	Engelmann spruce
aspen	American hackberry	plains cottonwood
elms	Russian-olive	Gambel oak
honeylocust	green ash	

To all identification bibliophiles insulted earlier, instead of going cold turkey, I suggest the last bird book you buy this week be the new Smithsonian guide by Colorado's own Ted Floyd, and then acquire a good tree ID book (the old Golden Guide is still great and the National Wildlife Federation has an excellent new one out).

Colorado birds or resources particularly rewarding to the watcher of our topic:

- * Sapsuckers (all three species that occur here)
- * Crossbills any time, anywhere
- * Berry-bearing plants
- * Wood Ducks
- * Prairie-dogs
- * Crayfish
- * Obvious insects like moth and butterfly caterpillars, grasshoppers, and cicadas
- * Shrikes (both species)
- * Obscure insects like psyllids, aphids, and bark beetles/wood borers under bark



Facets of food acquisition worthy of birder exploration:

The mysterious factors at intersections which attract insects, which then attract swallows

Food modification by birds after acquisition (such as cracking, and soaking in water)

Caching (as simple storage, or as a form of "showing off" to prospective mates)

Team-hunting

Scavenging (especially from roads, car grills, and the surface of recently-thawed lakes)

The influence of landscape-scale insect outbreaks like the pine beetle on what birds eat and where they live

Homework Assignment:

First, choose a patch. Begin mapping its food resources and, with each visit, begin adding which birds eat them.

Chances are, the way you bird the area is already influenced by your subconscious knowledge of food resources.

You always check out that corner or tree because of past success (or, my bet, successes).

By figuring out why that corner or tree was productive, you will better understand the site. For example, the tree blooms in May and attracts catkin weevils, or it bears fruit in September that migrants use for quick fuel. Perhaps it accumulates seeds in prevailing November winds, or psyllids hide under the bark in winter and sustain mixed flocks of gleaners. This study will make it more likely you will find a rarity, and improve the chances you can deliver life-views to your field trippers. And ultimately, the more enjoyable your birding life will be. Who knows? Instead of bombing out to Bonny, with the gas money you save figuring out who's eating what in your patch, maybe you could buy another bird ID book.

Dave Leatherman 612 Stover #7, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970/416-0193, daleatherman@msn.com

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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
First class mailing of field trip reports—for those without internet access.	\$5 for the remainder of the year (\$10 annual fee)
Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert	\$____
<i>With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site</i>	
Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund	\$____
<i>DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.</i>	
Name: _____	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____	_____

Electronic Lark Bunting: E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE FALL COUNT 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14					
	WAT	CHE	CHA	BLP	BAR	LOW	CAS	ROC					
Common Loon			1										1
Pied-billed Grebe		1	2		1	6		7					17
Western Grebe		12	13	1	100			4					130
Clark's Grebe								1					1
American White Pelican	15	109	55	30	22	18		5					254
Double-crested Cormorant	3	11	8	30	17	41		56					188
Great Blue Heron	4	19	4	3	6	8	1	6					50
Snowy Egret		13		3	7	1		3					27
Black-crowned Night-Heron						3							3
Turkey Vulture	5		2			5	25						37
Canada Goose	7	99	110	160	450	41		35					902
Wood Duck			4			2		25					31
Gadwall		2	2		14	16		300					334
American Wigeon			2		6	205		200					413
Mallard	3	18	30	2	39	97	2	200					391
Blue-winged Teal			1	20		4							25
Cinnamon Teal			1					292					293
teal sp.			30		8								38
Northern Shoveler		3	4		40	21		25					93
Northern Pintail					15			50					65
Green-winged Teal	3	8	2		24			8					45
Redhead				1		44		20					65
Ring-necked Duck			2			1		1					4
Lesser Scaup								2					2
Hooded Merganser						3							3
Common Merganser	5		85			1							91
Ruddy Duck		7			5	5		35					52
Osprey	1	1	1										3
Bald Eagle	2			2	1								5
Northern Harrier	1		1	3	2	1	2	5					15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		4					1					6
Cooper's Hawk	2		3			5	4	1					15
Swainson's Hawk	1	3	2	28	5	4		2					45
Red-tailed Hawk	7		5	6	3	10	4	11					46
western races					3								(3)
Ferruginous Hawk	2			6				4					12
Rough-legged Hawk													0
buteo sp.	3												3
Golden Eagle	1				1								2
American Kestrel	7	4	3	5	3	5	5	19					51
Prairie Falcon								1					1
Ring-necked Pheasant					1			1					2
Wild Turkey							11						11
Virginia Rail		1	3			1		2					7
Sora		1	1					2					4
American Coot		89	2		110	600		148					949
Killdeer		11	1	23	13	17	6	37					108
American Avocet								19					19
Greater Yellowlegs					2			1					3
Lesser Yellowlegs					2			1					3
Spotted Sandpiper			4		9	5							18
Sanderling			4		3								7
Western Sandpiper				20				6					26
Least Sandpiper		3											3
Baird's Sandpiper			1		12								13
Pectoral Sandpiper		2											2
Long-billed Dowitcher					6								6
Wilson's Phalarope				100									100

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE FALL COUNT 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	13 WAT	13 CHE	13 CHA	13 BLP	13 BAR	13 LOW	14 CAS	14 ROC					
Red-necked Phalarope						3							3
Long-tailed Jaeger		1											1
Franklin's Gull		217			500								717
Ring-billed Gull	2	78	17	25	160	11		29					312
California Gull		10	3		3	3		1					20
Herring Gull				1									1
Sabine's Gull			10										10
Ivory Gull													0
Common Tern			4										4
Forster's Tern			3										3
Black Tern			9	1									10
Rock Pigeon	18	12		47	3	7	30	26					143
Eurasian Collared-dove	1			60	2	9							72
Mourning Dove	7	3	11	75	22	17	42	176					353
Barn Owl								2					2
Great Horned Owl	1					2		3					6
Burrowing Owl	4			32				4					40
Long-eared Owl								4					4
Common Nighthawk				5				1					6
Common Poorwill								1					1
White-throated Swift	50												50
Black-chinned Hummingbird			1			1							2
Calliope Hummingbird						1							1
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	9		1			3	1						14
Rufous Hummingbird						4							4
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	5	2	1	5		2					19
Red-naped Sapsucker								1					1
Downy Woodpecker "eastern" race	6		4		6	2	3	22					45 (3)
Hairy Woodpecker							1						1
Northern Flicker "Red-shafted" race	14	16 (16)	25 (25)	2 (2)	11 (11)	47	6 (6)	27					148 (60)
Olive-sided Flycatcher						1							1
Western Wood-Pewee	23	4	13		10	24		12					86
Willow Flycatcher								1					1
Hammond's Flycatcher			1										1
Dusky Flycatcher			1										1
Buff-breasted Flycatcher													0
empidonax sp.						3		7					10
Eastern Phoebe								1					1
Say's Phoebe	5		2			4	2	8					21
Cassin's Kingbird			2			2							4
Western Kingbird	3	7	15	13	2	4	2	21					67
Eastern Kingbird		2		2									4
Loggerhead Shrike				3				1					4
Plumbeous Vireo	2				1			5					8
Warbling Vireo			1			1							2
Red-eyed Vireo		1					1						2
Stellar's Jay							11						11
Blue Jay		1	2	1	3	26	2	3					38
Western Scrub-Jay	1						12						13
Black-billed Magpie	3	20	53	5	29	37	25	13					185

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE FALL COUNT 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS
DATE LOCATION	13 WAT	13 CHE	13 CHA	13 BLP	13 BAR	13 LOW	14 CAS	14 ROC	TOTAL
American Crow	16	3	14				7	2	42
Common Raven	6		3				4		13
Horned Lark			1	78				47	126
Tree Swallow				11					11
Violet-green Swallow			2					18	20
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			1						1
Bank Swallow								1	1
Cliff Swallow		3	3	11					17
Barn Swallow	15	105	75	36	75	50		39	395
swallow sp.	15								15
Black-capped Chickadee	63	10	36	1	17	25	15	15	182
Mountain Chickadee							16		16
Bushfit				1					1
Red-breasted Nuthatch					1		3	2	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	3		2		5	11	13	4	38
Brown Creeper			1				2		3
Rock Wren			8		2	1		27	36
Canyon Wren							1		1
House Wren	4		14		3	2	5	15	43
Marsh Wren								1	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					1			1	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		3	17		1	12		17	50
Bluebird sp								20	20
Western Bluebird							34		34
Mountain Bluebird	2						15		17
Townsend's Solitaire				1			5	2	8
Veery								1	1
Swainson's Thrush								2	2
Hermit Thrush								1	1
American Robin	84	8	70	7	17	33	22	5	246
Gray Catbird	7		4				4	2	17
Northern Mockingbird								1	1
Brown Thrasher								1	1
European Starling	58	78	19	155	90	74		252	726
American Pipit						2			2
Cedar Waxwing	3		25						28
Orange-crowned Warbler		4	5		2	1		6	18
Yellow Warbler		2	1	1		1			5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	4			1	1	2	14	27
"Audubon's" race								2	(2)
Townsend's Warbler			1		4	2	2		9
American Redstart	1								1
MacGillivray's Warbler					1				1
Common Yellowthroat	2				1			1	4
Wilson's Warbler	30		16		53	27	18	72	216
Western Tanager	1		1		3			5	10
Green-tailed Towhee			3						3
Spotted Towhee	11		9			3	34		57
Chipping Sparrow	1	12	25		25	10	8	179	260
Clay-colored Sparrow					1			16	17
Brewer's Sparrow			1			6		5	12
Field Sparrow			1						1



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

October 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 10

An Uncommon Eider with Kevin Cook



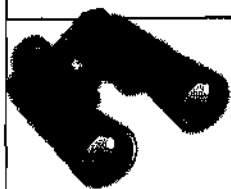
A Naturalist and Productive Writer (including Birder's Digest and More)

Monday, October 27 DFO Meeting

In 1932, William Harry Bergtold published an account of seeing a Common Eider on Marston Reservoir; the record was purged 50 years later. Examining the circumstances surrounding the Common Eider clearly establishes the subjective character of bird checklists and argues persuasively for an alternative concept. Such an alternative concept could include a checklist to serve the interests of recreational birding and a catalog to serve the needs of ecological scholarship. Scrutinizing the birds of Colorado by the single objective criterion of having a "biotic presence" establishes a catalog of, or surpassing, 500 species.

Kevin J. Cook is a writer-naturalist who lives in Fort Collins. He writes a weekly nature column that appears in three northern Colorado newspapers and has been a columnist and feature writer for Bird Watcher's Digest since 1991. His writing was paired with Roger Tory Peterson's artwork in Houghton Mifflin's FlashGuide, "100 Common Backyard Birds." Cook's essay, "Shift Your Focus from Birding to Birds," was part of Houghton-Mifflin's 2007 book, *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips from America's Top Birders*.

Continued on next page



October Field Trips

Saturday, October 4 *Chatfield State Park*

Leader: Ed Holub, (303) 979-2194. Meet at 0730 at swim beach. From C470, take Wadsworth South 1.5 miles to park entrance. Bring lunch and water and be ready to tally a good list with Ed! (Parks Pass required)

Sunday, October 5

No Scheduled Trip

Thursday, October 9

Denver Metro Area Hot Spots (or maybe cold spots!)

Leader: Chuck Thornton-Kolbe (720) 320-1974 (Nesting Tours). Meet at 0700 at Park'n Ride at Ward Road and I-70 – west side. Trip will end about 2 p.m. Route will be decided closer to the date. Call if you have questions. Bring lunch. Please RSVP to number above.

Saturday, October 11

Ponderosa Preserve - Aurora

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell (303) 739-2428. Mountain birding in a prairie setting. Must register for meeting time and place. ½ day trip. Mary Ann is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable guide!

Continued on page 3

An Uncommon Eider with Kevin Cook, continued

Cook moved to Colorado in 1974 to earn his bachelors degree in biology and chemistry at Western State College. Later, he earned his masters degree in wildlife biology at Colorado State University. Since 1975, Cook has published more than 6,000 pieces of writing; edited almost 1,000 articles for publication in technical journals (including the environmental impact statement for the Mexican Spotted Owl); conducted about 200 birding and general wildlife tours. He has taught almost 1,000 seminars on bird, wildflower, mammal, and tree identification plus others on topics as diverse as nature writing, wildlife history, and the development of biogeography.

Though passionate about all birds, Cook has devoted special attention to small owls since receiving his first research grant in 1976. In the early 1980s Cook served three years on the Records Committee of the Colorado Field Ornithologists, an experience that dramatically altered his views on bird documentation and checklists. Cook last spoke to the DFO about 10 years ago when in the program "*Birders, Birdwatchers, and Birdists*" he articulated the diverse ways in which people intellectually and emotionally connect with birds. We again are interested in his growing, challenging and changing perspectives on bird watching and enjoying the outdoors.

All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. DOORS OPEN BY 7.00 pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7.30 pm. Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to arrive by 7.15 pm on these dates.

Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

- Quick Reminder: On Monday, September 22, please come to the DFO meeting to hear some of the initial analysis and results from the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II with Lynn Wickersham, Project Manager. Lynn is an increasingly popular figure and leader in the Colorado birding community, and she has lots of interesting information to share.

Future Dates and Speakers: Mark your calendar now for the following fourth Mondays of the month. On November 24, the engaging world birth watcher, John Drummond, will present his photos and knowledge of birding in Venezuela. On January 26, 2009, Dr. Hugh McIsaac from the University of Denver will share his research on bird navigation. Dr. John Demboski, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will share some of his special knowledge about the bird skins collection at the Museum on February 23, 2009. A few more special speakers will round out the Spring 2009 schedule.

Note: We do not have a December 2008 meeting.

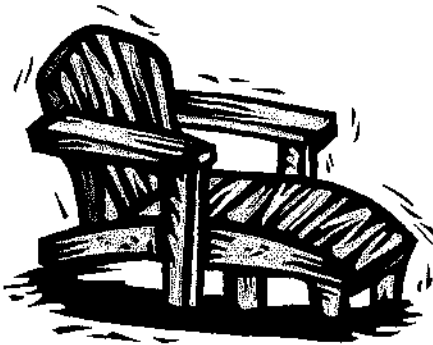
Welcome New Members!

Will Burt 3161 S Indiana St Lakewood Co 80228 720-221-3271
Von Fransen 4397 W Hinsdale Ave Littleton Co 80128 303-972-3231
Diana & Michael King 7232 Old Post Rd Boulder Co 80301 303-530-1860

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:
Bob Righter RBA and EEF

Thank you!

October Field Trips, continued



Sunday, October 12

"The Big Sit"

Leader: Joey Kellner (303) 978-1748. Parks Pass required.

Meeting place: Heron Overlook, Chatfield State Park. From the Wadsworth Blvd entrance, go right at the T and continue around the reservoir, and a half mile after you cross the South Platte River, make a hard left into the large parking lot. At the far right corner, a trail leads down to the Heron Overlook.

"The Big Sit" – an international birding event, has exacting, loose and frivolous standards. "Big Sitters" count all the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter. Count "Sitters" may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them as long as a "Sitter" sees the bird from within the circle. All around the world, on this date people will Big Sit!

Come and join Joey Kellner, and other recruits any time after dawn, for an hour, a morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like or volunteer to substitute for "Big Sit" leaders for an hour or two. (Pre-registration not required) Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that "Sitters" see from the circle. In the past three years he has tallied 55-65 species. Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffee, etc. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other essential birding equipment..

Saturday, October 18

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Norm Lewis (303) 988-5544. Meet at 0800 at Nature Center parking lot. From Denver, take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Road, then turn south about 2 miles to Park Entrance. Scopes will be appreciated. ½ day trip, lunch optional. Parks Pass required.

Sunday, October 19

Lair O' the Bear

Leader: Nina Routh (303) 987-8687. Meet at 0800 in the parking lot of Lair O' the Bear. Go 4 miles west of Morrison on Highway 74 and look for park sign. Easy walking - streamside, maybe 2 miles. ½ day trip, lunch optional.

Saturday, October 25

Wheatridge Greenbelt

Leader: Peggy Gonder (303) 321-3465. Meet at 0800 at Prospect Park Lake north parking area, south off 44th Avenue between Quail & Robb Streets (west of Kipling) ½ day trip – Comfortable walking, good trip for beginners.

Sunday, October 26

Stanley Lake and other Arvada areas

Leader: Chishun Kwong (720) 304-2073. Meet at 0830 at parking lot on north side of Stanley Lake Parkway (86th) and Simms. ½ day trip – lunch optional. Maybe new spots for us to check out.

Thursday, October 30

Carson Nature Center – S. Platte Park

Leader: Bob Shade (303) 975-2476. Meet at 0800 at the back deck of the Nature Center (North of Mineral Avenue, west of S. Santa Fe Drive, behind Aspen Grove Shopping Center) Expect to see raptors and early arriving water fowl. ½ day trip, lunch optional.

Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook

Birding 101: Flight Patterns

Most birds fly in a straight line, flapping in a constant rhythm, but certain bird groups have characteristic flight patterns that can help identify them. Birds of prey may be identified by the characteristic way they hold their wings when viewed flying toward you. Here are some useful identification tips from Cornell Lab of Ornithology:



Up-and-down Flight Pattern Finches exhibit a steep, roller-coaster flight, whereas woodpeckers generally fly in a pattern of moderate rises and falls.



Flapping Versus Gliding

Flying accipiters such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Northern Goshawks typically make several wing flaps followed by a glide. Buteos, such as the Red-tailed Hawk, are usually seen soaring. Dashed lines indicate flapping, solid lines soaring.



Red-tailed Hawk



Turkey Vulture



Bald Eagle



Black Vulture



Northern Harrier

Demeter's Torch: Attitude 101

Writing about compact fluorescent light bulbs recently got me thinking about other things one individual can do that would make a difference for the environment. Before mentioning some possibilities, I want to talk about the context for such activities.

Just as a thought must precede an action, so an intention certainly precedes a thought. Humans are thinking beings, happily so, but we are far too fond of our rational selves and woefully ignorant, often deliberately so, of the intentions that drives our thoughts: desires, inclinations, urges, crazes, wants, yearnings, zests, hopes, wishes, dreams, fancies, imaginings, cravings, lusts, impulses, propensities, persuasions, proclivities, and (Aristotle's favorite, and mine) *passions*. Some of these words may seem synonymous, but such a plethora of words demonstrates the subtle differences between them, and the almost limitless range of enigmatic forces that squirm and wiggle and twitch and throb beneath the vulnerable veneer of our thoughts.

Now you're going to remind me about sex, money, and power—the all-too-evident troika driving our thoughts and actions. I acknowledge them. I know their power. But to focus only on The Big Three in the human landscape is to miss The Hidden Hundred that lurk everywhere in our unconscious.

It is The Hidden Hundred that give texture, color, and depth to the picture, that justify both our deepest despairs and our loftiest longings. We are more than our appetites. We are also an inspiring package of aspirations. Therein lies the breadth of our potential as a species, and your opportunity as an individual to make a difference. Self-awareness includes considering the intentions behind your thoughts: that is one of the assumed abilities of “higher beings.” So act like one: use your head!

So where do you start? Unless you are a dedicated loner, you will probably find the greatest scope for your talents within an organization of some kind.

All such groups will need specialized experience or knowledge of one kind or another: computer skills, graphic design, grant writing, bookkeeping, program creation, office management, travel planning, membership development, publicity, and public relations. Your personal contacts from previous work or connections are invaluable. Almost any specialized or advanced

education you have will be useful, whether applied directly like the psychologist who understands group behaviors, or introduced indirectly by the philosophy major who is accustomed to pondering different perspectives, or the historian who thinks about the influence of the past, or the artist who knows that esthetics is far more than style.

Any such group needs a host of gophers, who are willing to drive, collate, answer phones, make phone calls, lick envelopes, coordinate meetings, etc. Even more, such groups need people with executive skills: organizing, planning, creating, delegating, synthesizing, analyzing. If you have ever been president or chairperson of a group, reflect on your experience. If you have not, perhaps now is the time. And I didn't intend to disparage the dedicated loners. Supporting all the visible activities of fundraisers, publicizers, managers, and other outreachers are good ideas, some of which will only occur to those solitary souls who like to sit and think.

Since DFO is a chapter of Audubon, let me conclude with some suggestions on supporting birds. Birds seem to be declining across North America. Some species are increasing locally, but the national trend for most birds is down. Participating in programs that survey habitats and count birds is vital in generating information about avian populations and trends. On the national level this includes the Christmas Bird Count, the Breeding Bird Survey, and fun programs administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, such as Feeder Watch. Just recording the birds you see on your casual hikes and sending the results regularly to eBird is valuable (www.ebird.org). Locally, there are plenty of novel opportunities, for example, Colorado Birding Trail, Colorado County Birding, or the Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, now beginning its second edition, or Evergreen Audubon's new Bear Creek Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Joining bird organizations or programs, and subscribing to bird magazines, gives those groups the financial and demographic support they need to do their jobs. One of my favorites, American Bird Conservancy, summarizes specific problem areas and what's being done, or not done. The details are often painful to read, but if we care about birds, we need to know these things in order to take appropriate action.

Continued on next page

Demeter's Torch: Attitude 101, continued

Birds (and many other species) are in trouble because of our short-sighted obsession with material growth. That obsession impacts every issue on the environmental agenda, from global warming to human population growth, energy development, resource extraction, pollution, land and water usage. Take a look at Watchlist 2007 (Google it) for suggestions about participating in the solutions to these interrelated issues.

As the dominant species on the planet, we have a responsibility to protect all forms of life. Surely, we want diverse fauna and flora, don't we? Enjoyment of wildlife and the natural world have always added quality of life to the human experience. It's time we started living within our means, so that other species can live too.

©Mike Foster

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RMBO 20th Anniversary Picnic Rescheduled



Please help Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) celebrate its 20th anniversary during its annual picnic on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the Old Stone House at Barr Lake State Park. Anyone interested in birds is invited to attend this event, highlighted by a keynote address, "Frontiers in Field Ornithology," delivered by popular speaker and ABA editor, Ted Floyd. The event also features morning bird walks, visits to RMBO's banding station, birding workshops, children's activities, a silent auction, and its famous BBQ lunch. Cost is \$10 RMBO members, \$12 non-members. Children ages 17 and under free.

RMBO's banding station will be open from 7 to 9:30 in the morning and field trips led by RMBO birding experts will leave from the Stone House between 7 and 9 a.m.

Concurrent workshop sessions will begin at 10 and 11 a.m. Susie Mottashed, author of *Who Lives in Your Backyard? Creating a journal that opens your eyes and heart to nearby wonders*, will be presenting a workshop on field sketching birds. RMBO biologists Arvind Panjabi and Jason Beason will speak on "The Mexican Connection," and the "Yellow-billed Cuckoo" respectively; Mike Carter, RMBO's founder, will talk about the beginnings of the organization, and Lynn Wickersham, coordinator of Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas II, will discuss the project. Check the RMBO web site (www.rmbo.org) for further information.

Invitation to Bill and Carol's Bird Photography Exhibits

Who: Bill Eden and Carol Blackard present U.S. and international bird photographs
When: September 1-26, 2008
Where: Lone Tree Recreation Center (303) 708-3500
Directions: From I-25 south, exit at Lincoln Avenue (exit 193). Take the Lincoln Avenue ramp. Merge onto Lincoln Avenue. Turn left onto Park Meadows Blvd. Enter roundabout and take 2nd exit onto Ridgeway Circle. End at 10249 Ridgeway Circle, which is the Lone Tree Recreation Center.

**** Second Exhibit ****

When: November 1-28, 2008
Where: Douglas H. Buck Community Center (303) 979-8787
Directions: From South Santa Fe (US 85) and Hampden Ave, proceed south on Santa Fe 3.2 miles and turn left on West Littleton Blvd. Go .2 miles and turn slight left on South Court Place. South Court place becomes West Powers Ave. End at 2004 W Powers Ave., Littleton, 80120, which is the Buck Center.

Audubon Alert

Each spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds as far north as the Arctic. Months later, as the temperature drops and winter sets in, these migrants make the long trip back to warmer southern climates. One of nature's most awe-inspiring phenomena, migration has long fascinated and inspired its human observers.



Neotropical migratory birds—those that breed in North America and spend the winter months in the Tropics—are among the most attractive and interesting to America's 46 million birdwatchers. The Western Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Bobolink are among more than 300 species of Neotropical migratory birds facing an increasingly

complex range of threats—from development pressures, invasive species, avian diseases, and a changing climate. **More than 43% of neotropical migrants have experienced significant declines** since systematic population surveys began in 1966.

Fostering International Cooperation

By their very nature, migratory species are a symbol of the need for international efforts in nature conservation. To safeguard the future for Neotropical migratory birds, protections must be in place at every stop along their migratory routes. The United States has supported efforts throughout the Americas to foster cooperation in the protection of migratory birds, particularly through efforts of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act: A Catalyst for Protection

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Program is an innovative, cost-effective approach to bird conservation, supporting projects to benefit bird populations and their habitats, research and monitoring, law enforcement, and outreach and education throughout Canada, the US, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Like many migratory bird species, the Western Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Bobolink have all benefited from conservation efforts initiated under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. As a matching grant program, it serves as a catalyst to leverage funding from a range of sources beyond the government. Since the program began in 2002, the US has invested more than \$25 million in 262 projects in 44 US states, Canada, and 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, leveraging an additional \$112 million in partner funds to support these projects. Its potential reach is even greater: each year, grant requests from qualified applicants far exceed the program's available funding (in 2008, for example, the US Fish and Wildlife Service received a total of nearly \$14 million in grant requests, but was only able to award \$4.4 million).

Contact us: [Audubon \(audubonaction@audubon.org\)](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org)

Field Trip Summaries for August 2008

August 2, Saturday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Joe and Corrinne Bartell, Dan and Sue Clasen, Thomas Holub, Sue Schulman, Bob Spencer, Bob L. Spencer. **Time:** 0815-1515. **Distance:** 15.7 miles by car, 1.75 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain forest, streamside, mountain meadow, elevation 8500'. **Weather:** Very warm, clear to partly cloudy, 65-88°F, west wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 150 individuals.

August 3, Sunday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Mary Burger. **Observers:** Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Linda Knudsen, Walter Knudsen, David Weimer. **Time:** 0730-1300. **Distance:** 5 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Hot dry, 70-90°F, wind 0-5mph. **Totals:** 43 species, 408 individuals.

Highlights: Ladies' triathlon occupied over half of the park and limited our access to east side of the lake and creek. Drought conditions, grasses brittle. Best spots at southeast corner of lake, pond north of swim beach, and beaver pond south of 12 mile picnic area.

August 9, Saturday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Sue and Don Clasen, Pat Conner, Jean Davis, Peggy Gonder, Patty Hodgins, Connie Huyck, Deb Wittwer. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian and urban, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Sunny and hot, 68-93°F, southwest wind, 1-3mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 349 individuals.

Highlights: Saw a mother great blue heron feeding her chicks and heard them make the most painful sounding sound that went on for a long time. Had a downy and a hairy woodpeckers feeding in some little trees right next to the path and got good looks at them. Followed again by a little fox.

August 10, Sunday *Pine and Cheeseman Area (PIN)*

Leader(s): Chris Blakeslee. **Observers:** Patty Echelmeyer, Clint Jones, Tina Jones, Rhonda Kelly, Nile Knez, Sue Schulman, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp. **Time:** 0600-1530. **Distance:** 25 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain riparian (river, stream and lake), meadow, mixed conifer, and the Hayman fire burn area (ponderosa pine), elevation 6600-8400'. **Weather:** Cloudy, 60-75°F, west wind, 0-12mph. **Totals:** 48 species, 267 individuals.

Highlights: Our blue-gray gnatcatcher and two Hayman burn are juvenile red-headed woodpeckers were high points. We also enjoyed a female common merganser with young, and mountain and western bluebirds and audubon's warblers feeding young. At lunch we had a tablecloth on the picnic table which Patty loved!

August 16, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Buzz Schaumberg. **Observers:** Joe and Corrinne Bartell. **Time:** 0730-0800. **Weather:** Rain, 51°F. **Totals:** 15 species, 203 individuals.

August 17, Sunday *South Mesa Trail, Boulder Open Space (SOU)*

Leader(s): Peggy Gonder. **Observers:** Mary Cay Burger, Tim Smart. **Time:** 0700-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills, ponderosa pine, shrublands, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Overcast, 55-65°F, wind 0-12mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 132 individuals.

Highlights: The chilly weather kept the bird activity down until mid-morning. On the return trip, we enjoyed seeing immature spotted towhees with their short tails and young chipping sparrows begging for food.

August 23, Saturday *Parker Regional Park, Parker Co, Castlewood Canyon State Park (PAR)*

Leader(s): Sue Schulman. **Observers:** Joe Bartel, Corrinne Bartel, Jean Davis, Ellie Jones, Rhonda Kelly, Jeannie Mitchell, Kelly Shipe, David Weimer. **Time:** 0730-1500. **Distance:** 15 miles by car, ¾ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, field, pond, road margins, elevation 5790-6081'. **Weather:** Clear, light breeze, 69-80°F, varied wind, 1-3mph. **Totals:** 70 species, 582 individuals.

Highlights: We ended the day with a Golden Eagle, a Ferruginous Hawk, four Wild Turkeys and Two dark morph Swainsons Hawks!

Field Trip Summaries for August 2008, continued

August 24, Sunday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** 3. **Time:** 1700-1930. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills oak forests, open meadows, elevation 6000'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, extremely windy, storms to the south and east, 75°F, south-southwest wind, 20-35mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 104 individuals.

August 28, Thursday *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Bob Shade. **Observers:** Sue Clasen, Mary Keithler, Lois Levinson, Dave Hill, Kathy Bollhoefer. **Time:** 0730-1000. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian, grassland, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Clear, 65-80°F, wind 1-3mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 165 individuals.

Highlights: The raptor show, starting with an agitated kestrel showing us the location of one of the local Cooper's hawks. This was soon followed by great views of three Swainson's hawks, one beautiful dark morph, one normal adult very close, and one immature bird of the year. Checking out distant soaring turkey vultures, we saw a 'kettle' (well anyway, a saucepan) of four thermaling Swainson's hawks for a total of seven.

August 30-Sep 1 *Crescent Lake Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska (NEB)* Report not available at time of printing.

August 30, Saturday *Rigli Ranch (RIG)* Report not available at time of printing.

August 31, Sunday *Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs (NOR)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Dan Brook, Patty Echelmeyer, Bill Fink, Alan Haygood, Alison Kondler, Charlie Lawrence, Randy Lentz, Bruce Neuman, Dick Pratt, Cheryl Tooten, Chuck Walters. **Time:** 0600-1800. **Distance:** 270 miles by car, 3.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** reservoirs and surrounding ponds. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, 62-94°F, south wind, 5-12mph. **Totals:** 94 species, 2056 individuals.

Notes: Prewitt Reservoir's water is up in the smartweed and so no shorebirds. Jackson's water has come up in the last two weeks so, while there is shore it is not good for shorebirds because it lacks the invertebrate prey.

Tuesday Birders

August 5 *Evergreen Lake, Mt Evans Elk Mgt Area, Ground Hog Flats Creek Train (EVE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 30. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 10.1 miles by car, 2.8 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponderosa pine, douglas fir, spruce and aspen, elevation 7040-8600'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, thunder, few sprinkles, 62-72°F, southeast wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 160 individuals.

August 12 *Hall Valley (HAL)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 18. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 4.7 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian meadows, willow stands, spruce, lodgepole, ponderosa and aspen woodlands, elevation 9300-10100'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 65-75°, west wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 29 species, 88 individuals. July 15, 2008 *Evergreen Lake and Maxwell Falls (MAX)*

August 19 *Alderfer Three Sisters Jeffco Open Space Park (ALD)*

Leader(s): Else van Erp. **Observers:** 31. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, douglas fir, aspen woodland and grassy meadows, elevation 7520-7800'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, 68-80°F, wind 0mph. **Totals:** 21 species, 127 individuals.

August 26 *Pine Valley Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park (PIN)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 31. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir with lake, ponderosa pine, blue spruce, Douglas fir and grassy meadow, elevation 7200'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, 60-72°F, northwest wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 25 species, 85 individuals.

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Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler
and Alison Hilf.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, August, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2008 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting)	\$25.00
Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
First class mailing of field trip reports—for those without internet access.	\$5 for the remainder of the year (\$10 annual fee)

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting: E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE OCTOBER 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	4	9	11	12	14	19	25	26	30	7	14	21	28	
	CHA	BOU	PON	BIG	BAR	LAI	WHE	STA	CAR	LAI	PRO	BEA	BEL	
Pied-billed Grebe				1	3			7	6		3	2	3	25
Eared Grebe					2									2
Western Grebe	24	20		2	1500			50						1596
Clark's Grebe					3									3
American White Pelican	35	2		45	8						1	2		93
Double-crested Cormorant	35	20		35	500		1		1		3	45	1	641
Great Blue Heron	1	1		3	4				1				1	11
Black-crowned Night-Heron		1		3							1			5
White-faced Ibis				1										1
Cackling Goose									120					120
Canada Goose	150	40		110	200		51	30	230		130		35	986
Wood Duck									4					4
Gadwall				45	300		24	120	30		35	15	30	599
American Wigeon	7	8		7	200		20	15	56		30	20		363
Mallard	5	40		8	300	7	30	15	168	4	19	10	42	849
Blue-winged Teal				3										3
Northern Shoveler					100		41	50	13		6		16	226
Northern Pintail					5				7					12
Pintail/Mallard Hybrid									1	1				1
Green-winged Teal		12		5	50									67
Canvasback								30						30
Redhead	2				20		60	20	6		20	1		129
Ring-necked Duck					10		30	2	11		10	1	4	68
Lesser Scaup					10			8					3	21
Bufflehead					2		19	25	6				8	60
Hooded Merganser				1	5		5		1		3		16	31
Common Merganser	45			140			4	8				7	2	206
Ruddy Duck					12		3	10			6	4		35
Osprey	1			1										2
Bald Eagle	1	1		1	2									5
Northern Harrier				3	4				1					8
Cooper's Hawk												1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	7	1	5	2			3	5	1		3		28
Rough-legged Hawk														0
buteo sp.										1				1
Golden Eagle		1				2								3
American Kestrel	1	6		5	3			2	3		1	4	3	28
Merlin		1												1
Prairie Falcon				1										1
Ring-necked Pheasant					4									4
American Coot	40	40		5	50		16	300	12		14	20	10	507
Sandhill Crane				26										26
Semipalmated Plover					1									1
Killdeer		12		1	2		1				1			17
American Avocet		4												4
Greater Yellowlegs		1												1
Lesser Yellowlegs		12												12
Spotted Sandpiper				2										2
Semipalmated Sandpiper		2												2
Bald's Sandpiper		4												4
Pectoral Sandpiper					3									3
Long-billed Dowitcher														0
Wilson's Snipe		6												8
Red-necked Phalarope														0
Pomarine Jaeger				1	1									2
Franklin's Gull		2												2
Ring-billed Gull	35	60		15	400		64	15	10		37	22	59	717
California Gull	3	1		2										6
Herring Gull				1	5									6
Sabine's Gull	1			1										2

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SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	4	9	11	12	19	19	26	28	30	7	14	21	28	
DATE														
LOCATION	CHA	BOU	PON	BIG	BAR	LAI	WHE	STA	CAR	LAI	PRO	BEA	BEL	
Ivory Gull														0
gull sp.											2			2
Common Tern					1									1
Forster's Tern					1									1
Rock Pigeon		60	11	6				3	5		32	35	16	167
Eurasian Collared-dove		2												2
Mourning Dove				2			1		3		9			16
Great Horned Owl				4										4
Rufous Hummingbird														0
Belted Kingfisher	5	5		2			1		6		3	3	3	28
Downy Woodpecker	2	1			5		2		4		5		1	20
"Rocky Mountain" race				1										(1)
Hairy Woodpecker				1	1									2
Northern Flicker	14	12	8	5	15	2	12	5	17	2	10	6	6	112
"Red-shafted" race	(14)	(12)		(5)					(17)					(48)
Buff-breasted Flycatcher														0
Gay's Phoebe	1													1
Plumbeous Vireo										3				3
Stellar's Jay						2				2				4
Blue Jay	1	6	1		11		1		1		3			24
Western Scrub-Jay		2												2
Clark's Nutcracker						7								7
Black-billed Magpie	11	20	3	25	5	13	2	2	9	3	6	9	3	111
American Crow	3	20		9	5	11	17	1	4		18	7	17	112
Common Raven		1			2					1				4
Barn Swallow				4										4
Black-capped Chickadee	40			9	10	20	12		4	15	18	2	6	134
Mountain Chickadee			2							2				4
White-breasted Nuthatch			4		4	1	2		2		2			15
Pygmy Nuthatch			13											13
Brown Creeper						6				1				7
Canyon Wren										1				1
House Wren					1									1
American Dipper						5				9		1		15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				1	3					7	1			12
Western Bluebird	1		43		3									47
Mountain Bluebird		12												12
Townsend's Solitaire	1			1		33				12	1		1	48
Hermit Thrush					1									1
American Robin	25	40		5	45	100	9	2		18	30		5	280
European Starling	150	60	1	200	1000		41	20	82		105	100	10	1769
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				1									2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1			4	16				1		22			43
"Myrtle" race									1					(1)
"Audubon's" race	1													(1)
Spotted Towhee		2									2			4
Chipping Sparrow				1	3									4
Vesper Sparrow	2													2
Fox Sparrow														0
Song Sparrow	2	2		4	4				2	2	4	2		22
White-throated Sparrow					1									1
White-crowned Sparrow		6	2	9	60				4	3				84
"Gambel's" race				(9)										(9)
Dark-eyed Junco		1		2		7				1	4		1	16
"Slate-colored" race											1			(1)
"Oregon" race											1			(1)
"Pink-sided" race											2			(2)

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE OCTOBER 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	4	9	11	12	18	19	25	26	30	7	14	21	28	
LOCATION	CHA	BOU	PON	BIG	BAR	LAI	WHE	STA	CAR	LAI	PRO	BEA	BEL	
Red-winged Blackbird		80		9	100			30	2		20	45	6	292
Western Meadowlark	15				7				2					24
Brewer's Blackbird											1			1
Common Grackle	6	5	23	25	3			1						63
House Finch	3	12	11	4	10	9	2	4	40	1	30	4	10	140
Red Crossbill										2				2
Lesser Goldfinch							10							10
American Goldfinch					25			1	3		5		6	41
House Sparrow					15		12		7		1			35
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	671	655	121	812	5088	225	603	779	891	91	653	371	323	11,163
TOTAL SPECIES	36	45	13	63	61	15	28	28	40	21	40	28	28	109
OBSERVATION LEGEND:	a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, + =also/in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated													

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Boulder County (BOU)

"The Big Sit" (BIG)

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

Lair O'the Bear (LAI)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)

Standley Lake, Lower Church Lake (STA)

Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park (CAR)

Lair O'the Bear (LAI)

Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space (REY)

Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and backyard feeder (PRO)

Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)

Belmar Historic Park (BEL)



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

November 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 11



Scarlett Ibis

Birding in Venezuela

November 24 DFO Meeting

John Drummond, a well-listed (over 6,500 species) world birder, will present his birding experiences and photographs from Venezuela at the DFO meeting on November 24, 2008 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Though Venezuela is going through some political changes, John will convince you that the country is an excellent country for bird watching.

John will share tales of finding the Northern Horned Screamer and other fantastic birds at Lake Maracaibo and around the Merida area. Other interesting finds in the area included Great Black Hawk, Scarlet-fronted Parakeets, Citron-throated Toucan and Cayenne Tern. John birded the Pico Humboldt Trail in the Sierra Nevada National Park where the group found Rose-crowned Parakeet, Grey-capped Hemispingus, and Golden-headed Quetzal. The next day they took a ski lift high into the paramo and found Bearded Helmetcrest!

Continued on page 3

November Field Trips



Saturday, November 1

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Dave Rhoades, 303-424-8633. Trip will start at 0800 and finish by 1300, lunch optional but do bring drinking water. Space is limited so you must call leader to reserve a space. RMA trips typically have a good variety of birds as well as deer and other animals.

Sunday, November 2

Scoters

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. This is an all day trip driving to various mountain lakes to look for scoters, loons and other migrants, so bring lunch. Trip will probably include stops at Dillon Reservoir, Turquoise Lake, Spinney Mountain Reservoir, Twin Lakes and Eleven-Mile Reservoir. Call leader to register and arrange a meeting place. State Parks pass required.

Saturday, November 8

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Steve Kennedy, 303-690-8265. Meet leader at 0800 at the Marina inside the west entrance to the park. Go east from Yosemite St. on Union Ave. past Cherry Creek High school to west entrance. This will be a three-quarter day trip, so bring lunch. State Parks pass required.

Sunday, November 9

Castlewood Canyon State Park and Kingerys' bird feeders

Leaders: Hugh and Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. Meet leaders at 0800 on the side of the road at Colo. 86 &

Continued on next page

October Field Trips, continued

Castlewood Canyon Road (Douglas Co. road 51); just west of Cherry Creek; DO NOT go to Park headquarters, 5 miles south of Franktown on Colo. 83. DO NOT go into the park on Castlewood Canyon Road. The intersection is: (a) 1/2 mile west of traffic light in Franktown; and (b) 10 miles east of I-25, Exit 184.

For (a): Take Parker Road/Colo. 83 to Franktown (about 10 miles south of Parker); right at traffic light. Left on Castlewood Canyon Road (just after you cross Cherry Creek).

For (b): Turn left at Exit 184 on Founders Parkway (now Colo. 86) and go 4 miles to traffic light. Left 4.5 miles to Castlewood Canyon Road; right on Castlewood Canyon Road. The Park portion will involve a two mile walk or so, depending on the birds and the group. We may hike instead a Douglas County Open Space unit along Russelville Creek. Bring lunch and your State Parks Pass. This trip is especially good for the novice birder and new members.

Saturday, November 15 *Pueblo*

Leaders: Ira and Tammy Saunders, 303-278-7172. Meet leaders at 0630 at the Safeway on Lincoln just West of I-25. Bring lunch, extra drinking water and come prepared for extremes of weather. State Parks pass needed.

Sunday, November 16 *Roxborough State Park*

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at the Visitor Center at 0800. Trip will finish by noon. This trip should see the resident golden eagles, scrub jays and possibly a canyon wren or two. Mammals are also possible, elk, deer and possibly more. State Parks Pass required or \$5 entrance fee per car. Lunch is optional but there is a great place to enjoy your lunch after the hike. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles)

Saturday, November 22 *Belmar Historic Park*

Leader: Karleen Schofield, 303-936-8661. Meet leader at 0900 at 800 South Wadsworth Blvd. at W. Ohio Ave. Turn west on Ohio Ave, and go 2 blocks straight ahead into Irongate parking lot and to lake. This will be a half day trip ending at 1200.

Sunday, November 23 *Chatfield State Park*

Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035. Meet leader at 0730 at the Swim Beach Parking Lot inside west entrance of park off S. Wadsworth, 1 1/2 miles south of C-470. State Parks Pass required. This may be a three quarter day trip depending on birds and weather, so bring lunch and drinking water.

Friday, November 28 *Platte River Greenway*

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet leader at 8:30 at E. 88th and the South Platte River – From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. Explore along the river on the bike path which is paved and level. Bring lunch and drinking water.

Saturday, November 29 *Barr Lake State Park*

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet leader at the Nature Center at 0830. From Denver, take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, Exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Road, then turn south for approx. 2 miles to park entrance. Depending on the weather and the birds, this trip could go past lunch so bring lunch and drinking water. Leader is using a scooter for mobility so this trip will be accessible to people with mobility impairments. This trip will be a good trip for novice birders and new members.

Sunday, November 30 *Rigli Ranch*

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at 0900 at the ranch. From Denver, take East I-76 to Hudson, Exit 31 (C 52). Go east on C 52 for approx. 32 miles until it turns north, do NOT turn north but continue east on Morgan County Rd. F for another 14 miles to CR 14. Turn left (north) on CR 14 and go about 2 miles to the first white house on the left (with 2 boxcars). Bring lunch and drinking water. Help Joe locate wintering plains and raptors.

Scheduled by Jackie King and compiled by Cris Cook

Birding Venezuela with John Drummond, continued

- From the heights of over 4000 meters he descended into the seasonally flooded grasslands, the Llanos area where they stayed at the famous Hato El Cedral Ranch. Over the next few days a great variety of ducks, ibis, egrets, herons, storks, kingfishers, shorebirds and much more were seen as well as endemics that live in the adjoining gallery forest. Yellow-knobbed Curassows, Agami Heron, Scarlet Ibis and Pale-headed Jacana were the group's favorites.

- A few more days were spent near Yacumba National Park and Sanare. Over these few days, they added Blood-eared Parakeet, Rusty-flanked Crake and Rosy-Thrush Tanager to the trip list.

- John will also share a few tales about finding Northern Helmeted Curassow and the very recently discovered Scallop-breasted Antpitta.

John will cover information about several other birding hot spots in Venezuela and share a number of other photos of endemic and near-endemic species from his travels.



Bearded Helmetcrest

John Drummond has birded in 27 countries, covering six continents. John has been a leader, co-leader or has advanced a number of international trips covering Bolivia, Jamaica, Japan, Australia and Thailand. His birding plans in the near future include Uganda, Sri Lanka and other parts of the world. John has Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Southampton University, England and has extensive field experience on a number of bird studies and has spoken to a number of Audubon and other ornithological groups.

All DFO meetings are interesting and the company of bird watchers is always worthwhile to keep. DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 PM AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 PM. Thus, mark your calendar for each meeting and plan to come by 7:15 PM. Meetings are held at the Ricketson Auditorium in Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 PM and 7:30 PM. If late, you can enter through security/volunteer door, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Future Dates and Speakers: Mark your calendar now for the following fourth Mondays of the month. On January 26, 2009, Dr. Hugh McIsaac from the University of Denver will share from his research on bird navigation. Dr. John Demboski, of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will share some of his special knowledge about the bird skins collection at the Museum on February 23, 2009. A few more special speakers will round out the spring 2009 schedule. Note: We do not have a December 2008 meeting.

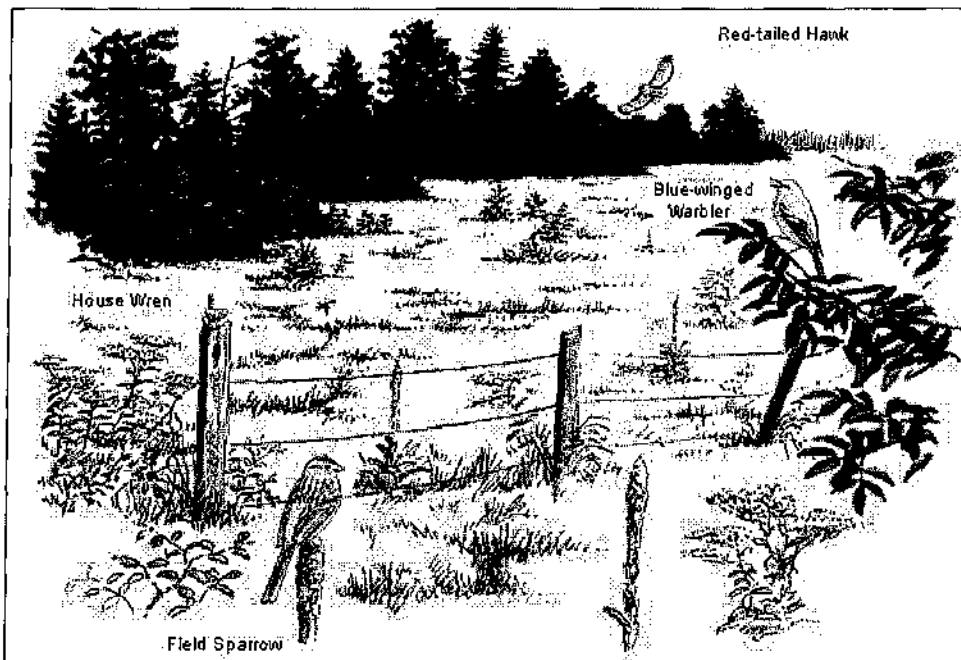
Do not miss the October 27 DFO Meeting with Kevin Cook

Kevin Cook, a local Fort Collins nature writer and travel leader, will put forth some new perspectives on listing and enjoying wildlife watching and the wild on October 27, 2008 at 7 PM at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Birding 101: Habitat

In general, each species of bird occurs only within certain types of habitat. And each plant community - whether abandoned field, mixed deciduous/coniferous forest, desert, or freshwater marsh, for instance - contains its own predictable assortment of birds. Learn which birds to expect in each habitat. You may be able to identify an unfamiliar bird by eliminating from consideration species that usually live in other habitats. (Be aware, though, that during spring and fall migration birds often settle down when they get tired and hungry, regardless of habitat.)

Abandoned Field: Agricultural fields no longer used for farming form an "old field" habitat as they slowly revert



to forest. In the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic states, the original grasses are replaced with plants such as goldenrod, mullein, asters, and brambles (blackberry). Thickets of woody shrubs - such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose - develop, mixed with small trees such as red cedar, black locust and hawthorn. Birds found there include Field Sparrow, House Wren, Red-tailed Hawk, and Blue-winged Warbler.

Mixed Deciduous /

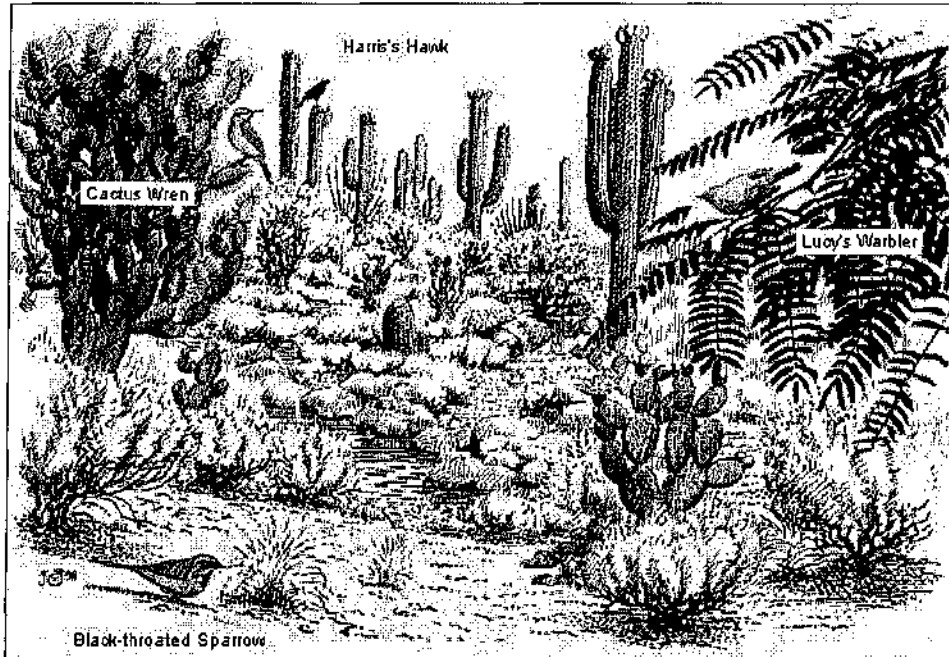
Coniferous Forest : In a broad band stretching from the Great Lakes region eastward to New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, the southern deciduous woodlands and the coniferous forests of the north meet and intermingle. There broad-leaved trees such as oaks, hickories, beeches, and maples mix with conifers such as spruces, firs, and hemlocks. Birds that live there include Winter Wren, Northern Goshawk, White-throated Sparrow, and Black-throated Green Warbler.



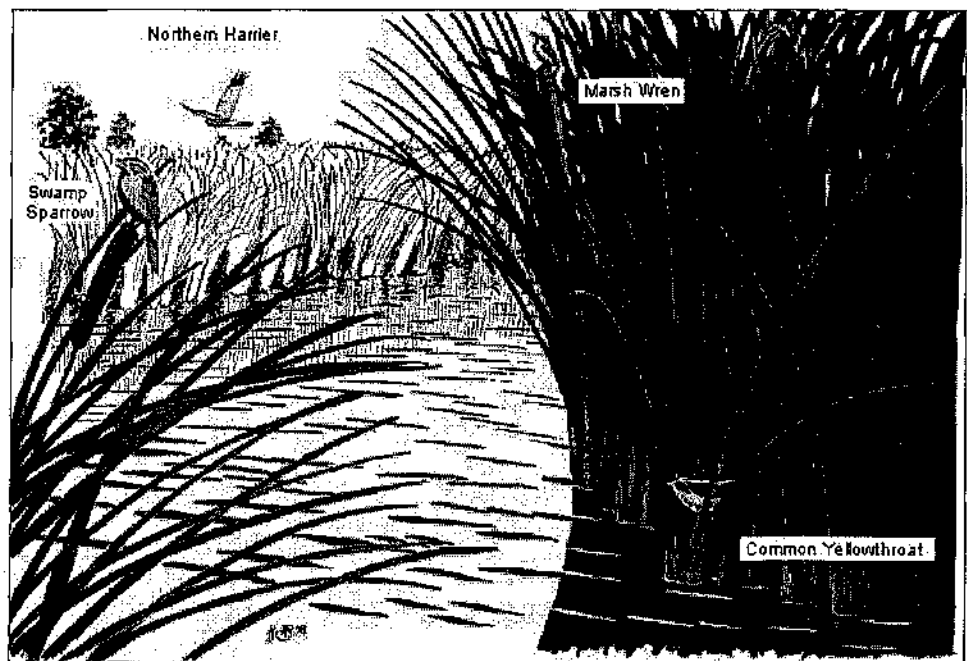
Birding 101: Habitat

Sonoran Desert: The Sonoran Desert is a hot, dry region covering 120,000 square miles in southwestern Arizona

and southeastern California, as well as most of Baja California and the western half of the state of Sonora, Mexico. Tall saguaro cactus and spiny cholla cactus are common, mixed with trees such as ironwoods and palo verdes, and shrubs such as salt-bush, creosote bush, and mesquite. Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren, Harris's Hawk, and Lucy's Warbler can be found there.



Freshwater Marsh: A freshwater marsh is a treeless wetland whose shallow water supports dense stands of mostly emergent plants (rooted in mud but with most of their foliage above water). Marshes are found throughout North America, often forming when ponds and shallow lakes fill in, although beavers may also play an important role in their formation. Typical vegetation includes cattails, bulrushes, sedges and reeds. In deeper pools submerged and floating aquatic plants occur, including water lilies, pondweed, arrowhead, duckweed, smartweed, bladderwort, pickerel-weed, water-shield, and sweet flag. Bands of shrubs such as alder and willow occur at drier marsh edges. Swamp Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, and Common Yellowthroat are typical residents.



More information from Cornell Lab of Ornithology : <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/birding123/identify/habitat>

Protect Greater Sage-grouse



One of America's most spectacular birds—the Greater Sage-grouse—is imperiled. **Its population has declined as much as 93%** from presumed historic levels due to habitat loss, the invasion of exotic species in the sagebrush steppe ecosystem, the pressure of drought, and the upswing of West Nile virus. Now, a new threat—accelerated oil and gas development in the bird's shrinking habitat—has stressed the Greater Sage-grouse population almost to the point of no return.

The governor of Wyoming, in the heart of the sage-grouse's habitat, recognized the need to protect this bird and released an executive order to conserve Greater Sage-grouse on state lands. Unfortunately, similar protections are absent on federal lands in Wyoming and other western states. It is now up to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to follow Wyoming's lead and give the sage-grouse a fighting chance. Instead, the BLM is continuing to sell mineral leases in core sage-grouse areas without necessary protections.

The unbroken sagebrush country that provides crucial habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse is one of the most awe-inspiring landscapes of the Rocky Mountain West. Places such as the Red Desert, the Upper Green River Valley, and the Powder River Basin support the sage-grouse and numerous other sage-dependent species such as pronghorn, the pygmy rabbit, and the Long-billed Curlew. The unchecked energy development now gripping the intermountain West is exerting tremendous pressure on these species.

Based on months of work by community leaders and conservationists, the newly released executive order puts the BLM on notice that it must protect the grouse and the landscapes that support it. With the order's release, now is the best time to contact the Bureau of Land Management and urge the agency to step up to the plate and implement a conservation plan for the Greater Sage-grouse.

Write to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Dr. James Caswell, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington DC 20240

Or email via the Audubon Alert page:

<http://audubonaction.org/campaign/wysagegrouse?rk=ap3vNpp1ahxE>

Good news! Red kite numbers soaring higher and grants forthcoming...

The Lark Bunting reported earlier this year on the plummeting numbers of Scotland's red kite—they were virtually wiped out during the Victorian era. All too often, we read bad news about the UK's birds of prey, but it's great to see that red kites are doing brilliantly. The population is now at its highest level since the 1800s, following years of dedicated conservation work. More information from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.asp?id=tcm:9-198487>

The fortunes of birds relying on farmland in England, such as turtle dove, grey partridge and corn bunting, have been given a major boost. Natural England has given the RSPB over £536,700 for three projects to help struggling farmland birds. Farmland birds in England have declined more than any other group of bird in recent times. Of 40 species of bird on the red list of the UK's Birds of Conservation Concern, over one third are reliant on farming. These birds were placed on the red list in 2002 either because of declines of more than half over the previous 25 years, or because of large historical declines. The grants have been awarded under Natural England's Countdown 2010 biodiversity action fund, which aims to help some of England's most threatened wildlife.

Additional Reports

Additional Report, August 2008

Species	Date	# seen	Location	County	Observers
Falcon, Peregrine	8/23	1 juv.	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Sandpiper, upland	8/8	201	Along US 6	Logan	Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Larry Modesitt, Joe Roller, Andrew Spencer, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted	8/20	1 juvenile	Hwy 14	Weld	Glenn Walbek, Joey Kellner, Modesitt Larry, Dick Schottler, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Gull, laughing	8/22	1 juvenile	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler, Connie & Rick Steinkamp, Glenn Walbek
Owl, Long-eared	8/23	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Hummingbird, Calliope	8/29	1 female/imm	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Larry Modesitt, Glenn Walbek, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Connie & Rick Steinkamp
Hummingbird, Calliope	8/29	1 female/imm	Private ranch	Washington	Joey Kellner, Larry Modesitt, Glenn Walbek, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Connie & Rick Steinkamp
Woodpecker, Three-toed	8/28	1 f.	Mount Evans	Clear Creek	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Wood-Pewee, Eastern	8/8-8/24	1 singing	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Larry Modesitt, Joe Roller, Andrew Spencer, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild, Norm Erthal, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Connie Steinkamp
Flycatcher, Willow	8/25	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Flycatcher, Grey	8/23	1	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Flycatcher, Great-crested	8/24	1	Private ranch	Washington	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Brandon Percival, Mark Peterson, Connie Steinkamp, Cole Wild
Swallow, violet-green	8/24	1 !!	Private ranch	Washington	Lisa Edwards, Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Brandon Percival, Mark Peterson, Connie Steinkamp, Cole Wild
Warbler, Nashville	8/22	1	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler, Connie & Rick Steinkamp, Glenn Walbek
Warbler, Black-and-white	8/30	1 adult female	Chatfield State Park	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Jill Holden, Connie & Rick Steinkamp, Bob Shade, Warren Finch
Bunting, lark	8/5	2 m	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood
Rosy Finch, Brown-capped	8/5	several pairs	Summit Lake	Clear Creek	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
White-winged Crossbill	8/7	3 incl FL	Sheephorn Mtn Atlas block	Summit	Hugh & Urling Kingery
White-winged Crossbill	8/7	3 incl FL	Minturn Atlas block	Eagle	Hugh & Urling Kingery
White-winged Crossbill	8/16-8/17	3	Frisco	Summit	Hugh & Urling Kingery

Welcome New Members

John Vickery & Lisa McDonald 5055 Raleigh St Denver Co 80212 719-359-6491

David Waltman PO Box 19131 Boulder, Co 80308 303-444-2132

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Peggy Roberts RBA and EEF

Thank you!

Additional Reports, continued

Additional Report, September 2008

Species	Date	# seen	Location	County	Observers
Sandhill Crane	9/27	22	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Sandhill Crane	9/30	unknown	Franktown, S Douglas C	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery, Ginny Ammons
Hawk, broad-winged	9/21	1 imm	Private Ranch	Washington	Maggie Boswell, Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Steve Larson, Randy Lentz
Golden-Plover, American	9/12	1 basic	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Golden-Plover, American	9/21-9/28	6	Hwy 53	Washington	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler, Glenn Walbek, Maggie Boswell, Lisa Edwards, Steve Larson, Randy Lentz
Plover, snowy	9/5	3	Jumbo Reservoir	Logan, Sedgwick	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Dick Schottler, Glenn Walbek
Dowitcher, short-billed	9/5	1 juv.	Jumbo Reservoir	Logan, Sedgwick	Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Dick Schottler, Glenn Walbek
Dowitcher, short-billed	9/21	1 juv	Hwy 53	Washington	Maggie Boswell, Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Steve Larson, Randy Lentz
Tern, sooty	9/12	1 adult!!!! Thanks to hurricane Gustav!	Lake Meredith	Crowley	Jim Beatty, Joey Kellner, Bill Maynard, Larry Modesitt, Nathan Pieplow, Joe Roller, Andrew Spencer, Steve Stachowiak, Glenn Walbek
Common Poorwill	9/4	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Hummingbird, broad-tailed	9/7	female feeding fledgling	Waterton	Jeffco	Audubon Society
Flycatcher, grey	9/11	1	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Mark Chavez
Flycatcher, great-crested	9/6	1 calling + seen	Two Buttes Reservoir	Baca	Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz
Vireo, Plumbeous	9/4	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Vireo, Cassin's	9/24	2	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Vireo, Philadelphia	9/14	1, photo	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Mark Chavez
Vireo, Philadelphia	9/19	1	Pawnee Grasslands	Weld	Allison Hill, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Western Bluebird	all month	5-20	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Brown Thrasher	9/4	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Gray Catbird	9/10-9/12	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Warbler, Tennessee	9/11-9/12	1	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Mark Chavez
Warbler, Nashville	9/9	1	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Karleen Schofield
Parula, Northern	9/26	1 1st year male	Akron	Washington	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler, Glenn Walbek
Warbler, chestnut-sided	9/12	1 (1st yr f)	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Warbler, Magnolia	9/19	1 female	Akron	Washington	Allison Hill, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Warbler, blackpoll	9/11	1	Belmar Park	Jefferson	Mark Chavez
Warbler, blackpoll	9/12	1	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Warbler, hooded	9/12	1 adult male	Prewitt Reservoir	Washington	Joey Kellner, Kathy Mihm Dunning
Sparrow, cassin's	9/4	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Sparrow, clay-colored	9/2, 9, 10, 24	1 to 2	Bear Creek Lake Park	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Rob Raker
Sparrow, white-throated	9/21	1 tan-striped race	Last Chance Rest Area	Washington	Maggie Boswell, Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Steve Larson, Randy Lentz
Sparrow, white-throated	9/19	1	Last Chance Rest Area	Washington	Allison Hill, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek

Additional Reports: Poileke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Demeter's Torch: Attitudes 301

Previously, in Attitudes 101, I discussed the improbable fact that even you, just one individual, can make a difference. The conclusion of Attitudes 310 seems even more unlikely: that unless you act, nothing will happen. It seems a dire conclusion, but if you think about it the logic is inescapable, especially in considering your role as a leader. When leaders dawdle, communities, organizations, nations, whole continents can fall asleep.

So what can you do? The canyon of possibility stretches before you, threatening to swallow you in its vastness. To find the path of discovery requires courage, independence, resourcefulness, and pluck. Mostly, it requires original ideas—a vision, if you will. That's what leaders provide.

Sooner or later, anyone working for the environment at a leadership level is going to have to hold her/his nose and dive into the sewer of politics. The stink keeps many good people away from politics, which is a shame, because the odor emanates mostly from the camp followers—the money grubbers, the pimps, the fixers, the vested interests, and the smalltime Charlies—who see in politics only an opportunity to advance themselves. They care nothing for the common good.

But politics also attracts others leaders, idealists like you, who have visions of their own. They, like you, embrace politics because anything that impacts public policy is ultimately political, and it's the political solutions that can make a big difference.

An excuse good people use for not getting involved is that "everything has become political." Actually, the reverse is true: what we have too much of today is partisanship, and too little politics. Partisanship is posturing. It is essentially irresponsible, for it aims only to justify and promote its own narrow self-interest.

But here we arrive at the real challenge, for politics is not a silver bullet. Politics is only the art of the possible. Its success depends upon patience, compromise, and integrity. So we cannot rely only on political solutions, no matter how sweeping. Before, during, and after political efforts, we need a personal attitude that inspires and orients our lives. That's the vision. With vision, we can reform our ineffective politics, redirect the potent tools of our economy, and revise our wasteful habits.

Of all forms of government, democracy is the slowest, the most inefficient, the least predictable, and the most frustrating. Its chief virtue is that it values diversity, choice, and opportunity. Tyrants and their ilk care

only for themselves. Elitists put themselves on a pedestal because of greater wealth or education. Only democracy provides the means of achieving lasting benefits for the common good. When confronted with global environmental problems, only democracy recognizes that all of us, regardless of our different conditions, abilities, and imagined superiorities, are in the same boat, that only by cooperating can any of us hope to prevail.

Wealth and power won't protect the fortunate few from the effects of overpopulation, pollution, and global warming. At best, the rich and powerful might live a little longer, in increasingly dangerous and appalling conditions. Is that the best *Homo sapiens* can do? Is that what you want? If not, you need to get involved in politics, at some level.

You don't have to run for office to be involved in politics. You need to care passionately about something (it will grow out of your vision) and be willing to work with others. Does your municipality recycle trash? Would you like to see higher fuel economy standards for vehicles? Would you like RTD to expand Light Rail? How about motivating contractors to "build green"? Do you want to increase biodiversity? Save habitats for wildlife? Reduce invasive species? If you don't have a favorite cause, just pick one. Your passion will grow as your investment increases.

An issues campaign will likely provide greater scope for your imagination, but it will also challenge your versatility. Don't try to do everything. At the same time, don't become too specialized. Everyone loves to catch a long pass, but everyone must be willing to confront the problem galloping directly at them. A solid tackle can be as satisfying as a glorious romp. As Roger Pulwarty, a climate scientist at NOAA, says: "Don't let your inability to do everything be an excuse to do nothing."

Regardless of your job description, your role as a leader is to see and act on opportunities. Sometimes that will be addressing an expressed need: "Who is the best link to each of our supporters?" Sometimes the most pressing need has not yet been acknowledged: perhaps your directors need to take a weekend retreat and rethink their approach.

If it sounds like there are more races to run than you have horses, you are right. That's why leaders are rare, and that's why you put them (i.e., you) in the toughest races.

©Mike Foster

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Field Trip Summaries for Fall Count 2008

September 13, Saturday *Waterton (WAT)*

Leader(s): Hugh Kingery. **Observers:** Dan Brooke, Daniel Herron, Urling Kingery, Cheryl Teuton, Peggy Wait. **Time:** 0630-1545. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, ponds. **Weather:** Clear, 40-78°F, little wind. **Totals:** 69 species, 788 individuals.

Highlights: Lots of Lesser Goldfinches feeding on a weedy-looking plant growing among the yellow sunflowers; one American Redstart, 30 Wilson's Warblers, a female/immature hummingbird perched on the same limb as last Sunday, a female perched before going down two feet to feed a fledgling.

September 13, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Mary C Burger, Mary Keithler. **Time:** 0700-1230. **Distance:** 13½ miles by car, 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian, open water, elevation 5566'. **Weather:** Calm early, north wind 10mph late. **Totals:** 53 species, 1122 individuals.

September 13, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Becky Campbell, Peggy Gonder, Derek Hankins, Jill Holden, Ed Holub, Thomas Holub, Alison Kondler, Randy Lentz, Stave Stachowiak. **Time:** 0630-1845. **Distance:** 35 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. **Weather:** Clear turning to mostly cloudy near day's end, 47-79°F, south wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 93 species, 1110 individuals.

September 13, Saturday *Barr Lake Periphery (BLP)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Dave O'Reilly. **Time:** 0730-1530. **Distance:** 104 miles by car. **Habitat:** Riparian, plains and developed city or suburb, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Sunny, just perfect!, 50-72°F, west wind, 10-15mph. **Totals:** 51 species, 2270 individuals.

September 13, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Kathy Mihm-Dunning, Warren Finch, Dick Pratt. **Time:** 0630-1530. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 5 miles on foot. **Weather:** Clear, 48-75°F, wind 0-5mph. **Totals:** 74 species, 2130 individuals.

September 13, Saturday *Lower Bear Creek (LOW)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Bob Andrews, Rick Creswell, Doris Cruze, Patty Echelmeyer, Gail Evans, Tina Jones, Kathanne Lynch, Norm Lewis, Rob Raker, Tim Smart, Mary Winqest, Nina Roth. **Time:** 0700-1600. **Distance:** 13 miles by car, 10 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian greenbelt, ponds, shrubby grassland, urban/residential, elevation 5300-5600'. **Weather:** Clear and sunny, 50-75°F. **Totals:** 79 species, 1862 individuals.

September 14, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Randy Lentz. **Observers:** Bev DuGay, Laurie Duke, Shannon Jacobs, Deb Mallong, Jacki Wallace. **Time:** 0500-1700. **Distance:** 22 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, gambel oak, riparian, grassland, elevation 6300'. **Weather:** Overcast am, partly cloudy pm, 40-60°F, northwest wind, 0-2mph. **Totals:** 49 species, 514 individuals.

September 14, Sunday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (ROC)*

Leader(s): Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Francis Commercon, Joyce Commercon, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Doug Kibbe, Hugh Kingery, Alison Kondler, Harriet Stratton, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0630-1730. **Distance:** 30 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, wetlands, grassland. **Weather:** Clear, 47-62°F, no wind. **Totals:** 104 species, 3151 individuals.

Highlights: Four Burrowing and four Long-eared owls; a Common Poorwill seen by all observers; 17 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (more each year), 72 Wilson's Warblers, and 549 sparrows (an encouraging increase from some years). Rarities for the Arsenal included a Red-naped Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe (first fall record for the Arsenal), and Veery.

Audubon Alert



Help Save Internationally Important Wetlands

Why a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge wilderness is a bad idea:

- **The proposed road would cut through the biological heart of the Izembek Refuge.** Izembek's cold-water lagoons and internationally significant wetlands are critically-important stopover habitats for migrating waterfowl. Virtually all of the Pacific population of Brant stop at Izembek to feed and rest. The Refuge also is home to Tundra Swans, Emperor Geese, and threatened species such as Steller's Eiders. Plenty of mammals use the refuge too, including caribou, brown bears, wolves and wolverines.
- **The proposed road is not needed.** The Alaska congressional delegation claims the road is necessary to address the health and safety needs of King Cove. In fact, those needs were met by Congress in 1998, when it passed the King Cove Health and Safety Act. That legislation provided \$37.5 million to upgrade King Cove's medical facilities, purchase a hovercraft to provide regular ferry and emergency medical service between King Cove and Cold Bay, construct new marine terminals, and build a road between the town of King Cove and the hovercraft terminal. This law specifically prohibited a road through Izembek's federally protected Wilderness.
- **The hovercraft is working.** Hovercraft service began full-time operation on August 7, 2007. By all accounts, the hovercraft service has quickly and safely met every medical evacuation need of the King Cove community, successfully completing 32 medevacs to Cold Bay.
- **A road through Wilderness is not compatible with the purposes for which Congress created the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.** The Refuge was created to: conserve fish and wildlife populations and their habitats; fulfill the United States' international treaty obligations (such as the four migratory bird treaties and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance); provide for continued subsistence by local residents; and ensure water quality and quantity within the Refuge.
- **The wildlife values of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge are globally significant and should not be compromised.**

[Audubon \(audubonaction@audubon.org\)](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org)

http://audubonaction.org/campaign/izembek_September08/

Field Trip Summaries for September 2008

Aug 30-September 1

Crescent Lake Wildlife Refuge and area (CRE)

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Ann Bonnell, Gord Hodgson, Jim Petri. **Time:** 0730-1700. **Distance:** 680 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Elevation 4000'. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, variable wind, 0-20mph. **Totals:** 88 species, 6299 individuals.

Saturday September 6

Waterton Canyon, Platte River, Chatfield (WAT)

Leader(s): Sue Schulman. **Observers:** Joe Bartell, Corinne Bartell, Jean Davis, Gail Evans, Jean Frazier, Holly Garrod, Lynne Jordan, Ed Holub, Lois Levinson, Bob Share, Rhonda ?. **Time:** 0800-1400. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, fields, elevation 6200'. **Weather:** Cool to hot sun, 49-69°F. **Totals:** 53 species, 370 individuals.

Sunday September 7

Weld County, Southeast Corner (WEL)

Leader(s): Tim Smart. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson. **Time:** 0630-1930. **Distance:** 250 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponds, fields, prairie grasslands, elevation 4900'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 55-74°F, east/southeast wind 10-16mph. **Totals:** 87 species, 4065 individuals.

Saturday September 20 *Red Rocks Park and Lair o'the Bear (RED)*

Leader(s): Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** William Buttner, Mary Lou Dimond, Vicky Hamilton, Ingrid Huskey, Clint Jones. **Time:** 0800-1245. **Distance:** 6 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills, shrubland and riparian, elevation 6000-6500'. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, 55-70°F, southwest wind, 0-15mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 98 individuals.

Sunday September 21

Fort Collins Natural Areas (FOR)

Leader(s): David Leatherman. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Tim Smart, Joyce Takamine, Tina Jones, Rhonda Kelly, Renee Hays, David Such, Marcel Such, Joel Such, Ken Ecton, Nina Routh, Paul Slingsby, Mike Serruto, Kathy Bollhoefer, Sue Kenney, Mary Keithler, Jim Duggan. **Time:** 0830-1730. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Urban cemetery, riparian, elevation 5000'. **Weather:** Cloudy early, partly cloudy late, 80°F, west to east wind, 1-3mph early, 4-7mph late. **Totals:** 45 species, 172 individuals.

Saturday September 27 *Two Ponds and Rocky Flats NWR (TWO)*

Leader(s): Dave Rhoades. **Observers:** Jean Alden, John Alden, Diane Carter, Jeff Carter, Allison Kondler, Alistaire Montgomery, Barbara Montgomery, Matt Newport, Patti O'Neill, Richard Stevens. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Farm ponds, riparian, scrub, mixed grass prairie, elevation 5500-6050'. **Weather:** Clear, calm, 60-80°F. **Totals:** 37 species, 208 individuals.

Sunday September 28

Beaver Brook-Chavez Trail (BEA)

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Jim Duggan, Neil Montague, Tim Smart, Nina Routh. **Time:** 0700-1300. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Douglas fir, ponderosa, riparian, elevation 7000'. **Weather:** Sunny, 50-70°F. **Totals:** 30 species, 265 individuals.

Highlights: Dozens of nuthatches and thrushes but kinglets are missing.

Tuesday Birders

September 2

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield (DEN)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 32 (two groups). **Time:** 0730-1230. **Distance:** 2.8 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, cool, 54-62°F, east wind, 0-10 mph. **Totals:** 39 species, 358 individuals.

July 1, 2008

Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space (REY)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 32 (two groups). **Time:** 0730-1230. **Distance:** 2.8 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, cool, 54-62°F, east wind, 0-10 mph. **Totals:** 39 species, 358 individuals.

September 9

Belmar Historic Park (BEL)

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell, Else van Erp and Karleen Schofield. **Observers:** 32 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 2.8

Field Trip Summaries for September 2008, continued

miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, wetlands, conifer stands, man-made lake, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Calm, sunny, 48-75°, no wind. **Totals:** 51 species, 326 individuals. July 15, 2008 Evergreen Lake and Maxwell Falls (MAX)

September 16 *Upper White Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park (UPP)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell, Else Van Erp, Walt and Linda Knutsen. **Observers:** 41 (three groups). **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 6.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, woodlands and mixed grassy meadows, elevation 5675'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 64-83° F, southeast wind 0-3mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 225 individuals.

September 23 *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 29. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian/cottonwood, wetlands, grasslands, reservoir, elevation 5548'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, breezy, 57-62°F, southeast wind, 3-20mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 711 individuals.

September 30 *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 31. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 15 miles by car, 1¼ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills riparian, montane willow carr, mixed conifer, meadows, elevation 8100-9500'. **Weather:** Sunny, 46-64°F, wind 0-5mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 72 individuals.

Project FeederWatch Benefits Birds and People

Connection with nature promotes wellness

Ithaca, NY--More than 100 studies have shown that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! For more than 20 years, that's what participants in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch have been doing--benefitting themselves and the birds.

The 2008-09 season of **Project FeederWatch** gets underway **November 8** and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants submitted more than 115,000 checklists during the 2007-08 FeederWatch season, documenting unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges--a treasure-trove of information that scientists use to monitor the health of the birds and of the environment.

Scientists learn something new from the data each year, too, whether it's about the movements of common backyard birds or unusual sightings of rarely-seen species. Highlights of the most recent season include the largest southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the history of the project--part of an expected influx of northern birds that fly farther south when their food supplies run short. Other northern species showing up in record numbers included Common Repolls and Pine Siskins. Among the rare birds reported was a Streak-backed Oriole in Loveland, Colorado--the state's first report of this bird, native to Mexico. A December nor'easter deposited a Dovekie in Newton, Massachusetts, the first time this North Atlantic seabird has ever been reported to Project FeederWatch. Long-term data show some species increasing in number, such as the Lesser Goldfinch in the Southwest. Other populations continue a downward trend, such as the Evening Grosbeak throughout their range. Once one of the most common species seen at feeders in the northern half of the continent, the grosbeaks are declining for unknown reasons.

Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels, from scout troops and retirees to classrooms and nature center visitors. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the *FeederWatcher's Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, *Winter Bird Highlights*.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

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Mar, Jun, September, Dec.

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

303.646.3829
veronicaholt@comcast.net

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Dick Schottler
and Alison Hilf.

The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcook@comcast.net

Feb, May, August, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, September, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2009 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting is \$10 more)	\$30.00
Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
First class mailing of field trip reports—for those without internet access or who want the paper reports.	\$10 in addition to membership fee
Online reports are free from the web site dfobirders.org	

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting: E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE NOVEMBER 2008

[illegible]

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE NOVEMBER 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS												TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
DATE	1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	28	29	30		4	11	18	25	
LOCATION	ROC	SCO	CHE	WAL	PUE	ROX	BEL	CHA	PLA	BAR	RIG		AUD	SOU	RED	CHA	
American Coot	22	707	39		40			130	12					18		4	972
Killdeer	4		6	2													12
Long-billed Dowitcher																	0
Wilson's Snipe														1			1
Red-necked Phalarope																	0
Bonaparte's Gull			9		1												10
Ring-billed Gull	135	4	615	5	250		48	62	125				50	7		23	1324
California Gull	4	8	43		10												65
Herring Gull	1		2		10			2						1			16
Thayer's Gull		1															1
Glaucous-winged Gull		1															1
Great Black-backed Gull					1												1
Ivory Gull																	0
Murrelet sp								1									1
Rock Pigeon	82		2	25	100	1	52	2	30				8	2	11	3	318
Eurasian Collared-dove					5						2						7
Mourning Dove	6												1				7
Great Horned Owl	2																2
Rufous Hummingbird																	0
Belted Kingfisher	1		4		1		2	2					2	1		2	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1												1
Downy Woodpecker		1	2	1	4	2	1						2	1		2	16
Hairy Woodpecker		2			1												3
Northern Flicker	8		5	6	12	3	3	5	4				4	14	2	5	71
"Red-shafted" race				(6)			(3)	(5)									(14)
Buff-breasted Flycatcher																	0
Black Phoebe					1												1
Say's Phoebe														1	1		2
Loggerhead Shrike					2												2
Northern Shrike								1	2						1		4
Steller's Jay		6		2													8
Blue Jay	1		1	1	2	2								1			8
Western Scrub-Jay				6		13							1		11		31
Clark's Nutcracker		2															2
Black-billed Magpie	3	11	16	5	4	18	4	18	1				2	1	6	30	119
American Crow	2	11	5	9	3	2	9	10	8				1	2	2	6	70
Common Raven		11		2	1	1	2						3		2		22
Horned Lark		25										250					275
Black-capped Chickadee			14	4	8	15	4	5					4	1	3	5	63
Mountain Chickadee		5		6		2											13
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1															1
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	2	3	3		1		2					2				16
Pygmy Nuthatch		4		2													6
Canyon Wren				3		1									1		5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					6												6
Eastern Bluebird					1												1
Western Bluebird																3	3
Mountain Bluebird					9												9
Townsend's Solitaire	2		1	21	1	5		2							14	1	47
American Robin	4		51	53	20	4	14	6	2		2		33	12	6	43	250
Curve-billed Thrasher					4												4
European Starling	10		120	50	50		6	9	20		30		34	31		78	438
American Pipit					1				5								6
Yellow-rumped Warbler					12								2				14
"Audubon's" race													2				(2)
Spotted Towhee				4	1								2				7

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE NOVEMBER 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS											TUESDAY BIRDERS				
DATE	1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	28	29	30	4	11	18	25	TOTAL
LOCATION	ROC	SCO	CHE	WAL	PUE	ROX	BEL	CHA	PLA	BAR	RIG	AUD	SOU	RED	CHA	
Canyon Towhee					6											6
American Tree Sparrow			23	8	8		1	10	15		5		1		8	79
Field Sparrow					1											1
Lark Sparrow												1				1
Savannah Sparrow															1	1
Fox Sparrow																0
Song Sparrow	2		1		10		2	1	1			4		1	2	24
White-crowned Sparrow	4		2		30							35	4		34	109
Dark-eyed Junco	4	1	15	28	30	10	4	16	1				3	3	25	140
"White-winged" race				2												(2)
"Slate-colored" race			8	(3)		(6)							3		1	(21)
"Oregon" race				(2)		(4)	2	(2)							2	(12)
"Pink-sided" race			7	8			2	(14)							3	(34)
"Gray-headed" race				6											3	(9)
Junco race				7												(7)
Lapland Longspur					1											1
Red-winged Blackbird	14	1	5		40								8		20	88
Western Meadowlark	2								3						2	7
Brewer's Blackbird		1														1
Common Grackle																0
Great-tailed Grackle					15											15
Cassin's Finch		10														10
House Finch	5		58	4	50	22	10	25	3			3	8	1	4	193
Red Crossbill		25														25
Pine Siskin				1	20											21
American Goldfinch	2		20	8	1		2	4	6			8			16	67
House Sparrow			5		20				5				10			40
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	875	5105	1457	335	1705	133	378	582	583	0	299	224	428	67	1147	13,316
TOTAL SPECIES	46	49	49	37	67	19	27	34	29	0	10	30	41	17	32	116

OBSERVATION LEGEND:

a=adult, i=immature, J=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only,
c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare, unusual, + =also/in addition to,
x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Boulder County (BOU)

"The Big Sit" (BIG)

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

Lair O'the Bear (LAI)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)

Standley Lake, Lower Church Lake (STA)

Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park (CAR)

Lair O'the Bear (LAI)

Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space (REY)

Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and backyard feeder (PRO)

Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)

Belmar Historic Park (BEL)



The Lark Bunting

December 2008

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 43, Number 12



December Field Trips

Saturday, December 6 **Cherry Creek State Park**

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, (303)771-3431 - 0830 - 2PM. Meet Leader at the west gate (the Marina entrance) and be prepared to stretch your legs for a fun day of riparian birding. Walk to the Beaver Pond and other areas of interest, and of course check out the Marina as well! Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. State Parks Pass required.

Sunday, December 7 **Barr Lake State Park**

Leader: Tim Smart, (303) 439-9627. Tim is a Raptor expert, having founded the Southeastern Michigan Raptor Research program and having extensive experience counting Raptors at Hawk Watch in Minnesota, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, NY and the fabled "River of Raptors" at Vera Cruz, Mexico. Tim figures he's tallied over 6 million birds! He'll take you lakeside to tally waterfowl and riparian species, and in the afternoon you'll drive the surrounding county roads on a Raptor quest. Bring lunch and dress for weather. Scope helpful. Please consider buying your 2009 State Parks pass here. Trip begins at 0830 at the Visitors' Center.

Saturday, December 13 **South Platte River**

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303) 422-3728 - please call leader to register. Meet at 0800 at the 74th Avenue trail head: from the south, take I-76 to the 74th Ave. exit and go west across the river. Look for the trail head on the south side of 74th Ave. From the north, exit I-25 at 84th Ave. and go east to Washington St. Proceed south to 70th Ave. (CO Hwy. 224). Take 70th Ave. east and it will change into 74th Ave. The trail head parking lot will be on your right just before 74th crosses the river. Half-day trip; lunch optional. For those interested you can go with Paul to warm up and have lunch at Tres Portillos restaurant on Colorado Blvd at about 48th Ave. Always a welcome conclusion to the morning's efforts!

Saturday December 20 **Christmas Count**—see details on page 4

Sunday, December 21 **Wheat Ridge Greenbelt**

Leader: Mike Foster, (303)456-2647 Join Mike at 0900 for a morning of discovery at this popular urban birding locale. Call leader for directions and to register for the trip. Half-day, lunch optional. Dress for weather conditions.

Saturday, December 27 **Eastern Boulder County**

Leader: Mike Serruto, (303)377-9870 - Boulder County can offer lots of good things this time of year. Meet Leader 0830 at the Jim Hamm Nature Center in Longmont: from I-25 take exit 240 (Hwy. 119) west about 4 miles to County Line Rd., then north about 2 miles to 17th Ave. The Jim Hamm parking lot is on the left. Visit Union Reservoir, Sawhill Ponds, Boulder Reservoir and other "hot spots" depending on what is being reported. Bring lunch. A scope is helpful while searching the reservoirs. We'll be looking for raptors along the roadsides too.

Sunday, December 28 **Carson Nature Center/South Platte River Greenway**

Leader: Dee DeJong, (720)838-3277. This area is like a second home to Dee, and she knows how to unlock its secrets! Meet Leader at 0900 at the Nature Center deck; take Santa Fe Drive to Mineral Ave. and enter the park to the Nature Center. Good river and riparian habitat. The trip will wrap up at 11:00.

Cornell's Little Green Space

A follow-up press release from Cornell:

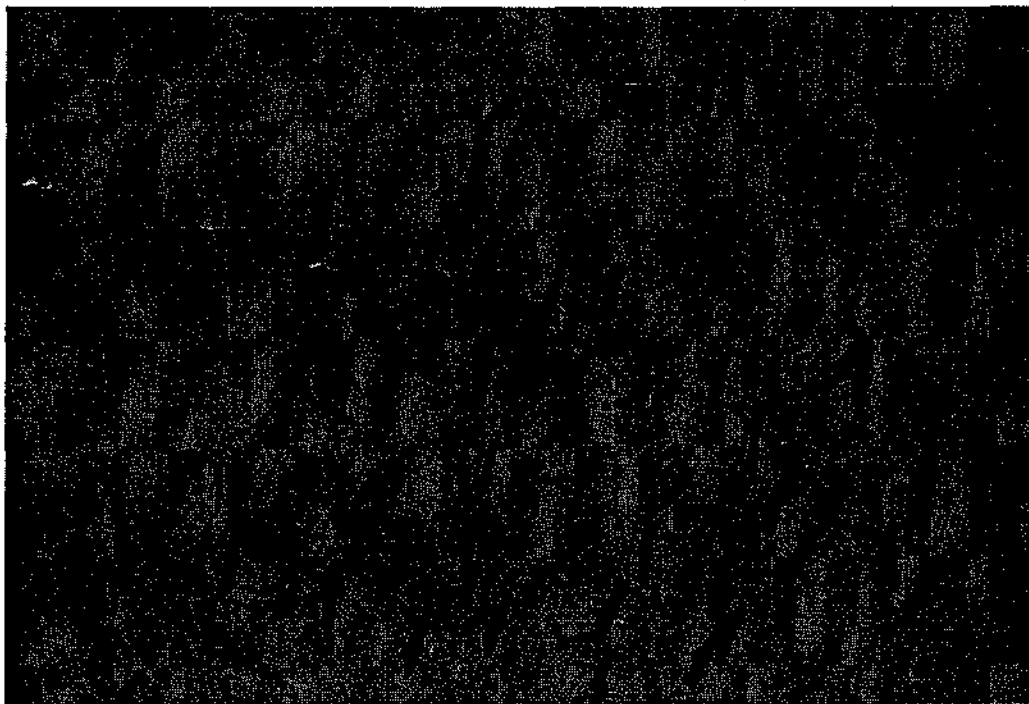
This past June we told you about the **Celebrate Urban Birds!** project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It's an easy, fun way for city-dwellers to get to know their birds, enjoy the outdoors, and contribute information that scientists can actually use to study urban birds. Now we want to tell you about our **"Little Green Places" contest**.

We want to see your photo, drawing, or video of a Little Green Space that's good for birds. Have you noticed a spot that birds like because it provides shelter, food, or water? It could be an ivy-covered wall, flowers next to the stoop, a windowbox, a container garden on a rooftop or balcony, your school garden, or the potted plants by your library entryway. **Send a photo, drawing, or link to your video to urbanbirds@cornell.edu**. We'll send the first fifty entries a copy of the new "Celebrate Little Green Places" poster and there will be other great prizes, including a \$100 gift certificate from Johnny's Selected Seeds. **The deadline is October 31.**

Information about the Little Green Places contest can be found on our web site: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/temporary/little-green-places-photo-video-contest>

(Make sure to watch our video about the contest!) We're also attaching a flyer that you can post on a bulletin board, if you wish. Please feel free to modify this information for use in a newsletter or in any other way that helps spread the word. Karen Purcell, project leader, Celebrate Urban Birds! www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org kap7@cornell.edu

A Christmas Present from Photographer Sandra Rapley



From Hugh Kingery: "this log of Sandhill Crane observations from Elbert and Douglas County for Oct. 9 and 10 showed that small to large flocks moved through both counties both days. 1052+ on Oct. 9, mostly in Elbert; reports from Karen Metz, Pat Brodbent, Jackie Dunn, Veronica Holt, and Meg Johnston. Largest flock 427 at Plains Conservation Center and 350 at Elizabeth. 1145+ on Oct. 10; reports from Kit Bazley, Pat Brodbent, us, Sandy Nelson, Dave Rapley, and Sandy Shane. Largest flock 300, seen at 4:30 p.m. east of Franktown and then at 4:40 p.m. over our house west of Franktown."

Project Feederwatch

Want to be a bird scientist in your own backyard? Help the world understand bird distributions and numbers in North America? And maybe even get your best backyard bird photo or personal pearl of wisdom published on a beautiful glossy calendar? Project Feederwatch could be for you.

This will be my fourth year to participate in the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology Project Feederwatch. It has been a joy to me on weekends, especially when it was too arctic or I was too busy to get out and go birding in the field. I love watching and counting my old regulars, but when I get to count an unusual bird, it's a special thrill. No small part of the satisfaction of taking part in these weekly counts is knowing that my observations are respectfully cataloged at the Lab and used to establish North American bird databases and to follow feathered trends over time.

Project Feederwatch starts in November each year and ends the following April. You are asked to count and report birds that are attracted to your feeders and backyard habitats. The Cornell Lab provides excellent photos of birds you are likely to see in your backyard, so you can confirm your identifications. You can participate any two days a week, for however many weeks you are available. The counting rules are straightforward and well-explained. You are asked to fill out a report form either on-line or on paper.

Of course, the game is to try to report as many backyard birds as possible. So, for that you'll want to have an attractive back yard. A source of fresh water is an excellent attractant for birds as are the many feeder types and foods available for our winter birds. Over the years I've managed to get up four feeder poles and seven separate feeders. The various feeders contain safflower seeds, a seed mix, peanut pieces, suet, niger and shelled peanuts. It pleases me to make the suet myself, and if you're interested, my recipe appears at the end of this piece.

Our backyard regularly hosts chickadees, both black-capped and mountain, house finches, American and lesser goldfinches, red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, northern flickers, blue jays, robins, and dark-eyed juncos. In addition, we see brown creepers, bushtits, Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, cedar waxwings, ruby-crowned kinglets, and Townsend's solitaires. Last year we had a Myrtle's yellow-rumped warbler for most of the winter and in years past we were excited to spot an eastern screech owl. Of course, we have our share of starlings and grackles, but we don't make it easy for those birds to get at the food, and so we don't seem to be overrun with these types.

I have no grandkids, yet, but I can't wait until I can share this activity with them. What a great way to get them involved in nature. For, then you will want to get the big ID poster sporting beautiful colored pictures of the birds. It came with my packet the first year. If you are a teacher, what are you waiting for?

It's never too late to get set up with Project Feederwatch. The computer URL is www.feederwatch.org, or you can write to Project Feederwatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. The participation fee is \$15. Good luck, backyard birders!

Bird Pudding

- 2 c. melted lard or suet
- 2 c. peanut butter
- 4 c. quick oats
- 4 c. yellow cornmeal
- 2 c. all purpose flour
- 2/3 c. sugar

Melt lard and peanut butter together on a low burner. Take off heat, add remaining ingredients. Spread in 13 X 9 pan and allow to cool in fridge until mixture is just hard enough to cut into pieces. Store in fridge and use as needed.



*Well-known feeder of birds,
Hugh Kingery*

Thanks to Carol Blackard carol-blackard@comcast.net for this article.

55th Denver Christmas Bird Count



Saturday December 20, 2008

Count Leader/Compiler: Dick Schottler 303-278-8035, <birdshot@uswest.net>

Feeder Coordinators: Patty Echelmeyer 303-233-4947, Tina Jones 303-794-2647

Compilation meeting: 5:00pm at the South Platte Park classroom, 7301 S. Platte River Parkway.

All DFO members are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the Denver Field Ornithologists and the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Leader if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. As can be seen on the list, **there are still some areas that do not have leaders and will not be covered unless volunteers are found to help out.** If you would be willing to lead in one of these areas, please call the Count Leader as soon as possible. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the short compilation meeting being held again this year in the South Platte Park classroom (adjacent to the Theo L. Carson Nature Center) to warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. As usual, Ann Bonnell will have 2009 Colorado State Parks passes available for purchase at the meeting.

Fees: National Audubon requires that each observer over the age of 18 pay a \$5.00 fee to participate in Christmas Bird Counts. Participants should pay the fee to their Area Leader. Checks should be made payable to *National Audubon Society*, not to DFO. Several Area Leaders conduct pre-counts prior to Count Day. Since days and times of pre-counts will vary, contact an Area Leader if you wish to assist on a pre-count in a particular area. There is no fee for pre-counts. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for meeting times and places on Count Day, Saturday, December 20.

<u>Area Number and Location</u>	<u>Area Leader</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
1. Red Rocks Park	Bob Brown	303-791-6204
2. Lower Bear Creek	Mike Henwood	303-716-8551
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Kathy Hawkins	303-969-8909
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Karl Stecher	303-779-8887
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Bob Shade	303-975-2476
5. Highline Ditch	Harold Oliver	303-936-6902
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-424-6747
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Hugh Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte*	Jill Holden	303-972-6410
10. Lower Deer Creek	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
11. Upper Deer Creek	(leader needed)	
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Tim Davis	303-841-6163
14. North Turkey Creek	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
15. Indian Hills	Sherman Wing	303-697-8840
16. Upper Bear Creek	Gene Rutherford	303-337-2598
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	Tom Bush	303-904-4576
18. Garrison Gate	(leader needed)	
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	Jackie King	303-287-1644
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Wayne Wathen	720-344-0158

* to participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Tuesday, December 16.

October Additional Reports

Species	Date	Number seen	Location	County	Observers & notes
Sandhill Crane	10/9	1652 + 2 big flocks	Douglas & Elbert	Counties	m.ob.
Sandhill Crane	10/10	3729 + 4 big flocks	Douglas & Elbert	Counties	m.ob.
Sandhill Crane	10/12	403	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Sandhill Crane	Oct. 13	600	Arvada	Jefferson	B E Steinkuhler
Sandhill Crane	10/13	600	Arvada	Jefferson	B E Steinkuhler
Sandhill Crane	10/13	Big flock	Cherry Cr Shopping C	Denver	Gene Reetz
Green-tailed Towhee	10/02 & 04	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Golden-Plover, American	10-26	1	Bonny Reservoir	Yuma	Maggie Boswell, Paul Differding, Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Ira Sanders, Dick Schottler, Andrew Spencer, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild
Godwit, marbled	10-11	1	Jackson Reservoir	Morgan	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler
Dunlin	10-26	1	Jackson Reservoir	Morgan	Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Jaeger, long-tailed	10-03	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner, Andrew Spencer
Kittiwake, black-legged	10-19	1 adult	3400 Youngfield, Wheatridge	Jefferson	Bob Spencer
Woodpecker, red-bellied	10-05	1	Jackson Reservoir	Morgan	Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Thrush, varied	10-03	1 male	Crow Valley Campground	Weld	Joey Kellner, Dick Schottler
Sparrow, white-throated	10-05	1	Last Chance Rest Area	Washington	Maggie Boswell, Paul Differding, Norm Erthal, Joey Kellner, Loch Kilpatrick, Ira Sanders, Dick Schottler, Andrew Spencer, Glenn Walbek, Cole Wild
Blackbird, rusty	10-26	3	Morgan County Rd 2	Morgan	Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Redpoll, Common	10-26	3	Jumbo Reservoir	Sedgwick	Joey Kellner, Cole Wild

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.



Welcome New Members!

Jean Eddina & RD Ginn 2501 York St Denver 80205, 303-329-8350
 Roy Hohn 6805 S Bellaire Way Centennial Co 80122, 303-770-5974
 Jessica Jenner 1100 Plum Creek Pkwy Unit 1-301 Castle Rock 80104, 720-524-3359
 Barbara Montgomery 2512 Taft Ct Lakewood 80215 303-234-9134
 Jamie Mullin 1409 S Laredo St Aurora 80017, 303-632-7826
 Debra Oberbeck 11790 Fenton St Westminster Co 80020, 303-469-0951
 Bill Wuerthele 745 Glencoe St Denver 80220 303-333-2519

Contributions to Rare Bird Alert/Educational Endowment Fund:

Danny & Denise Smith RBA and EEF, David Hill EEF, Mary Ann Tavery RBA and EEF, Elissa & Jon McAlear RBA and EEF, Jessica Jenner RBA

Thank you!

October Field Trip Summaries

October 4, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Joe and Corrinne Bartell, Mary C Burger, Patty Echelmeyer, Pat Franklin, Dave Hill, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Lois Levinson, Jamie Mullin, Sue Schulman, Betsy Shaw, Rick and Connie Steinkamp. **Time:** 0730-1330. **Distance:** 12 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, river riparian, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, 58-74°F, southwest wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 36 species, 671 individuals.

October 9, Thursday *Boulder County (BOU)*

Leader(s): Charles Thorton-Kolbe. **Observers:** Connie and Rick Steinkamp, Joe and Corinne Bartell, MJ Clar, Gail Evans, Bob Shade, Patty Echelmeyer, Jill Boice, Warren Finch (cameo). **Time:** 0700-1400. **Distance:** 70 miles by car, 2-3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Wetlands, foothills, reservoirs, elevation 7000'. **Weather:** Cloudy then sunny, 45-65°F, no wind. **Totals:** 45 species, 655 individuals.

Highlights: Cottonwood Marsh was hopping with many interesting shorebirds, things slowed down at Walden/Sawhill after that with a few sparrow sightings. The reservoirs were all nearly empty, enjoyed a Bald Eagle flying over. The most fun on the trips was the excitement from Bartell's guest from UK. She picked up stacks of life birds all day long. The second highlight was a Golden Eagle flying over the car in Golden on the return drive.

October 11, Saturday *Ponderosa Preserve, Aurora (PON)*

Leader(s): Mary Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** Bev DuGay, Polleke Sitaa, three public participants. **Time:** 0830-1030. **Distance:** 1.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine forest and riparian, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Cold, drizzle, fog, 35°F, wind 1-3mph. **Totals:** 13 species, 121 individuals.

October 12, Sunday *"The Big Sit" (BIG)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Jonelle Balais, Bryce Cysanowski, Warren Finch, Fred Hagar, Caroline Hancock, Derek Hankins, Dave Hill, Jill Holden, Ed Holub, Alison Kondler, Charlie Lawrence, Dick Pratt, Ira Sanders, Jim Schmoker, Dick Schottler, Andrew Spencer, Bob Spencer, Steve Stachowiak, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, James Taylor, Bill Werthal. **Time:** 0545-1830. **Weather:** Overcast, mist on and off all day, 38-42°F, northwest wind, 1-9mph. **Totals:** 53 species, 812 individuals.

October 18, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Norm Lewis. **Observers:** Don Clasen, Sue Clasen, Todd Deininger, Jeffrey Dewin, Jim Duggan, Edward Furlong, Lyn Graves, Pauline Ide, Dough Kibbe, Bobbie Lohr, George Lohr, Gillian Martin, Danny Roohr, Nina Routh, Betsy Shaw, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Judy Tanasse, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0800. **Habitat:** Tree-lined lake, prairie. **Totals:** 61 species, 5068 individuals.

October 19, Sunday *Lair O'the Bear (LAI)*

Leader(s): Nina Routh. **Observers:** Paul Aboti, Ann Esmas, Jim Duggan, Jean Eddins, RD Ginn, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Doug Kibbe, Paul Slingsby, Barbara Thomas. **Time:** 0800-1130. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, coniferous, foothills, elevation 7000-8000'. **Weather:** Beautiful fall day, 37-60°F, west to east wind, 10mph. **Totals:** 15 species, 225 individuals.

Highlights: You can't beat a hike in the Colorado foothills on a beautiful fall day. The morning was enhanced with two golden eagles and five dippers creekside. Other highlights included the sheer numbers of thrushes. We counted 100 robins and watched "Townsend territorial tag" among the 33 or so Solitaires in the junipers.

October 25, Saturday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)*

Leader(s): Peggy Gonder. **Observers:** Toni Rautus, Jean Eddins, RD Ginn, Melinda McCarsland, Tom Seiler, Jean Davis, Rosemary Sleevi, Sue Clasen, Don Clasen, Patty Echelmeyer, Jeff Dowson, Bob Spencer. **Time:** 0800-1150. **Distance:** 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponds, riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 52-62°F, west wind, 0-15mph. **Totals:** 29 species, 503 individuals.

Continued on page 8

Demeter's Torch: One Step at a Time

Over the course of these columns, you may have wondered what in the world motivated me to speak out on behalf of Demeter and the planet's various ecosystems over which she presides. It is a question I might have tackled in my first column; instead I decided to save it for the last.

I have had a lifelong love affair with the natural world, a world that is now in trouble and that needs all the help it can get, even from imperfect me. Despite the problems threatening the natural world, and therefore threatening us, too, I am encouraged to realize that many, perhaps most, of those problems can begin to be solved by viewing them from a different perspective. For example, to the extent that we have an "energy crisis," it is not in our dependence on foreign sources, or even in the world's dwindling supply of petroleum. The crisis stems from our absurd attitude that maintaining a wasteful, inefficient, unsustainable, and, yes, immoral lifestyle is good for us, something to which we are entitled.

Such thinking has blinded us to our natural connections to all other peoples, all other creatures, all other life forms. Such thinking has poisoned the wells of conscience, broken the bonds of community, trivialized philanthropy, and belittled altruism. Worst of all, such thinking has pumped up our bloodlust for scapegoats, making it difficult to consider where and how we might take responsibility.

As I've aged, I've come to understand the wisdom of the notion—inherent in many traditional cultures—that tribal elders should summon up their courage and speak out regarding the lessons they have learned. But as I've weighed my observations, more than once I have had to confront the various Biblical injunctions against criticizing others until I have truly reformed myself. Not casting the first stone, for example, or failing to see the beam in my own eye.

Again, a shift in perspective makes all the difference. The Biblical injunctions, the parables, the many stories and proverbs, all those inspiring messages, were not written for genuine saints, whose numbers have always been miniscule. These counsels of perfection were conceived and uttered, then later recorded, for poor slobbs like you and me, real people, imperfect people, who mostly want

to do the right thing but who are constantly tempted to do otherwise.

Looked at from that perspective, we need not rise to the level of saints to make a difference. Take imperfect me as an example. Certainly, I am no paragon in terms of environmentally friendly behavior. I consume more than I need, I waste resources, and my behavior lags behind my intentions. In that respect I am no better than most Americans. We could all do better; indeed until we all start doing better the situation of planet Earth will not improve, for, in the immortal words of Pogo, "We have met the enemy, and it is us."

Writing this column has become an opportunity to shape up, to put my money where my mouth is, to walk the talk. And I've made a beginning. When I moved into my new home, a year and a half ago, I installed a low-volume toilet. You'll remember that I recently converted to compact fluorescent bulbs, and so did a number of you. I've stepped up my level of recycling. This fall I conceived a program of xeroscaping a significant portion of my yard (which I hope to begin in spring). I rediscovered how much gasoline I could save by driving at the speed limit. I ask waitpersons in restaurants to save the water for a customer who requests it. I only use the dishwasher and laundry machines when they have full loads, and I find that my clothes get just as clean on the warm cycle as on the hot. During summer I have nearly eliminated my need for air conditioning by closing curtains during the day, then opening windows after the sun sets in the evening. My highest total Xcel bill over the hot months was \$65. Meanwhile, in expectation of winter, I upgraded the insulation in my attic and walls. The results are already noticeable: during the first cold snap this past October I was comfortable with the thermostat between 68-70, and the furnace rarely had to pump out hot air.

These are small steps, and I am only one person, but the longest journey begins with a single step, and the cumulative effect of millions of us doing similar small things can be enormous. Conservation is not only the cheapest, easiest, and most immediate remedy for the "energy crisis;" it is also by far the most effective.

I have other essays in the works, and some of them may eventually find you in one place or another.

Continued on next page

Demeter's Torch: One Step at a Time, continued

But it is time to climb down from that soapbox I ascended a year ago. I do not wish to overstay my welcome at *The Lark Bunting*, thus I'll be signing off on *Demeter's Torch* with this December issue. You, the literate members of DFO, have been patient, and I appreciate your indulgence, as well as the comments you have shared.

Meantime, as I strive to transform additional insights into written form, I will hope, in the way that one thing generally leads to another, that my columns may have jolted your neurons sufficiently to stimulate some new thinking. Perhaps something I have said will inspire you to take your own small steps towards planetary health. Perhaps our birding community will become more motivated to protect the creatures they love, as well as the habitats and lifestyles that nourish all life, including our own.

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October Field Trip Summaries, continued

Highlights: We were pleased to see the winter ducks were back – buffleheads, hooded mergansers, redheads and ringnecks. One common merganser had a broken wing.

October 26, Sunday *Standley Lake, Lower Church Lake (STA)*

Leader(s): Joanna Chan, Chishun Kwong. **Observers:** Chuck Lowrie, Barbara Thomas, Douglas Kibbe, Mackenzie Goldthwait, Patty Echelmeyer, Tom Seiler, Kathanne Lynch. **Time:** 0830-1100. **Distance:** 3 miles by car, ¼ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, suburban pond, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Sunny, 50°F, northeast wind, 10-30mph. **Totals:** 28 species, 779 individuals.

Highlights: While at Standley Lake, it was windy and kind of cold. Lower Church Lake was relatively calm, which allowed the group to have an extended study of the good variety of ducks there. Among them were good numbers of canvasbacks and redheads, giving us ample opportunity to compare the two species.

October 30, Thursday *Carson Nature Center, South Platte Park (CAR)*

Leader(s): Bob Shade. **Observers:** Neal Montague, Kathy Welsch, Tom Seiler, Lois Levinson, Mary Keithler, David Hill, Kris Koff. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake, river, marsh, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Clear, 40-71°F. **Totals:** 40 species, 891 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

October 7 *Lair O'the Bear (LAI)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell, Else van Erp and Alice Kruse. **Observers:** 35 (three groups). **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 5.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, some ponderosa pine and blue spruce, elevation 6350'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 43-63°F, northeast wind, 0-15 mph. **Totals:** 21 species, 91 individuals.

October 14 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt and backyard feeder (PRO)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 36 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes, lowland riparian, cottonwood, ponds, lakes, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to overcast, 39-50°, northwest wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 653 individuals.

October 21 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 36 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 6 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy, 50-56°F, northwest wind 0-7mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 371 individuals.

October 28 *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Else van Erp and Judy Miller. **Observers:** 50 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 2.8 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, wetland, conifer stands, man-made lake, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Sunny, warm, 48-70°F, no wind. **Totals:** 29 species, 323 individuals.

Urban Denver Christmas Count, January 1 2009

We invite everybody to participate – beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved. Start the New Year with a half day or whole day effort--a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a circle with a 15-mile diameter that includes the Platte River from North City limits to Mississippi, west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal.

After the count, at 5pm a **Pot Luck** at Casey Davenport's, 415 South High (five blocks west of University, about two blocks south of Alameda); please call Uring (303-814-2723) or Casey (303-744-0613) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Uring's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger foods.

Count Leader, Hugh Kingery 303-814-2723

Area Location	Telephone	Leader	
South Platte (south) to Confluence Park	303-798-8072	Doris Cruze	Some walking
South Platte (central)	303-744-0613	Casey Davenport	Some walking
Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetery			
South Platte (north)	303-278-8035	Dick Schottler	Walking
[Rocky Mtn. Arsenal	303-814-2723	Uring Kingery	Walking <i>Full – we'll take names for a waitlist.</i>
Commerce City/Montbello	303-287-1644	Jackie King	Car
Sand Creek/Tollgate Creek,	303-680-3381	Randy Lentz	Walking
Bluff Lake, & Aurora	303-699-1721	Buzz Schaumberg	
Cherry Creek Res.	303-791-6204	Bob Brown	Some walking
Kent School, S/Hampden	303-757-7000	Lynn Willcockson	Some walking
SE Denver, N/Hampden	303-771-8331	Walt Hackney	Walking, gyrfal@juno.com
Cherry Creek, dam to	303-422-3728	Paul Slingsby	7-mile walk, paslingsby@comcast.net
University Blvd.			
[Fairmont, Lowry Field ** Full **	303-979-6211	Tuesday Birders	Car, some walking]
City Park/Park Hill	720-482-8454	Kevin Corwin	Car, some walking
Botanic Gardens,	303-777-3337	Barbara Masoner	Car, some walking
Denver Country Club, Wash. Park			

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The *Lark Bunting* has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Zoology Department, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Boulevard., Denver, CO 80205. The Denver Field Ornithologists was organized as the Colorado Bird Club in 1935, and membership is open to anyone interested in the birds of the Denver area in particular, and the birds of Colorado in general. The DFO presents monthly evening programs (except in the summer and month of December) and conducts about 100 field trips annually.

Regular individual or family membership is \$25.00 per year (\$20 per year if you choose to have the newsletter sent by email). Student (age 21 or younger) membership is \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Chair Mary Burger. A membership application form is on the next page of this newsletter. The *Lark Bunting* is now mailed first class.

Notices or announcements of classes, lectures, special field trips, etc., relating to birds that are intended for inclusion in the *Lark Bunting* should be sent to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submittals, and to edit any announcement. The *Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

Scheduling and compiling the information for monthly publication is a complex and time-consuming effort, therefore the responsibilities are shared by many dedicated volunteers. First day of the month is the deadline for all submittals. Email is preferred.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80128, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net

Additional Reports: Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 12216 E. Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, August, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net

Mar, Jun, September, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Our web site www.dfobirders.org lists current field trip schedules that you can download. Changes to trip schedules will be posted on the site, and noted on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert, 303.659.8750. We encourage members to routinely check the Bird Alert number for last minute trip changes or cancellations.

Membership Information

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750, www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7 and 7:30 pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats near Denver. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge (January 07) is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver. The *Lark Bunting*, the DFO monthly newsletter, is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members.

Denver Field Ornithologists

2009 Membership Application

Please indicate whether this is a ☐ **New Membership** or a ☐ **Renewal**

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

One Year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting)	\$20.00
One Year Family Membership (First Class Mail Lark Bunting is \$10 more)	\$30.00
Student/Youth Membership (age 21 or younger)	\$5
First class mailing of field trip reports—for those without internet access or who want the paper reports.	\$10 in addition to membership fee
Online reports are free from the web site dfobirders.org	

Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$____

With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#)

Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$____

DFO awards grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting: E-Mail Address _____

**Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Burger, 10826 E. Maplewood Place, Englewood, CO 80111-5742**

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE DECEMBER 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS						TUES BIRD		TOTAL
	6	7	13	21	27	28	2	8	
	CHE	BAR	SOU	WHE	EAS	CAR	OLD	-	
Pied-billed Grebe	7				1	1			9
Horned Grebe	1								1
Eared Grebe	12								12
Western Grebe	6	2							8
Double-crested Cormorant	1	1			2				4
Great Blue Heron	5	1				4			10
Snow Goose		14							14
"Blue morph"		1							(1)
Cackling Goose	300	8000							8300
Canada Goose	500	500	94			130	255		1479
Gadwall	3	42	126			6			177
American Wigeon	10	85	26		2	6			129
Mallard	12	160	104		34	48	17		375
Northern Shoveler	97	7000	126			34	11		7268
Northern Pintail		140	140						280
Green-winged Teal	25	32	65			2			124
Canvasback	2				6				8
Ring-necked Duck	23	4			15	41			83
Lesser Scaup	5		1			3			9
Bufflehead	10	1	9			9			29
Common Goldeneye	250	55	8		4	2			319
Hooded Merganser	6		12			11	1		30
Common Merganser	1000	440			4	19			1463
Bald Eagle	2	12	1		9	1			25
Northern Harrier	2	6	1		5				14
Cooper's Hawk					2		1		3
Red-tailed Hawk	5	17	2		22	5	5		56
"Harian's" race		1			1				(2)
Ferruginous Hawk		2							2
Rough-legged Hawk		1							1
Golden Eagle					2				2
American Kestrel	4	12	3		14	3	3		39
Merlin		1							1
Prairie Falcon		2					1		3
Sora	1								1
American Coot	20				23	3			46
Killdeer	6					1			7
Long-billed Dowitcher									0
Red-necked Phalarope									0
Bonaparte's Gull	7								7
Ring-billed Gull	650	60	270		154	12			1146
California Gull	25	10							35

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE DECEMBER 2008

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS						TUES BIRD		TOTAL
	6	7	13	21	27	28	2	9	
	CHE	BAR	SOU	WHE	EAS	CAR	OLD	-	
Herring Gull	17	22			2				41
Thayer's Gull	1	1							2
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1							1
Ivory Gull									0
Rock Pigeon		32	11			1			44
Eurasian Collared-dove		22							22
Mourning Dove		3	15		1		6		25
Great Horned Owl	1		2						3
Rufous Hummingbird									0
Belted Kingfisher	1		5			3	2		11
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	2		1		2		7
Hairy Woodpecker		1							1
Northern Flicker	6	6	1		3	5	14		35
"Red-shafted" race			(1)		(3)				(4)
Buff-breasted Flycatcher									0
Northern Shrike	1					1			2
Blue Jay		5			3		4		12
Black-billed Magpie	11	3	6		6	2	9		37
American Crow	16		2		60	2			80
Common Raven					1				1
Horned Lark		700			25				725
Black-capped Chickadee	1	8	3			6	3		21
Bushtit					8				6
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1							2
American Dipper					1				1
Townsend's Solitaire		2			2				4
American Robin	13	18			5	15	14		65
European Starling	20	8000	86			19	45		8170
American Pipit						3			3
Yellow-rumped Warbler			1						1
Spotted Towhee					2				2
American Tree Sparrow	6	32							38
Fox Sparrow									0
Song Sparrow		5	8			1	2		16
White-crowned Sparrow		14	64						78
Dark-eyed Junco	9	13							22
"Slate-colored" race		(8)							(8)
"Oregon" race		(2)							(2)
"Pink-sided" race	2	(3)							(5)
Red-winged Blackbird	1	120	90		250000	18	4		250233
Western Meadowlark		34			1				35
Great-tailed Grackle		75							75
Brown-headed Cowbird		2							2
House Finch	30	165	22		6	10	11		244

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE DECEMBER 2008

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS						TUES BIRD		TOTAL
	6	7	13	21	27	28	2	9	
DATE	CHE	BAR	SOU	WHE	EAS	CAR	OLD	-	
LOCATION									
Plne Siakin						2			2
Amerloan Goldfinch	4	8				5			17
House Sparrow		100				6			106
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	3137	25894	1306	0	250422	440	410	0	281,709
TOTAL SPECIES	48	54	31	0	31	36	20	0	76
OBSERVATION LEGEND:	a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare,unusual, + =also/in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated, h=heard only								

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

South Platte River (SOU)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)

Easter Boulder County (EAS)

Carson Nature Center/South Platte River Greenway (CAR)

Old Stone House (OLD)

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)